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May 17, 2023

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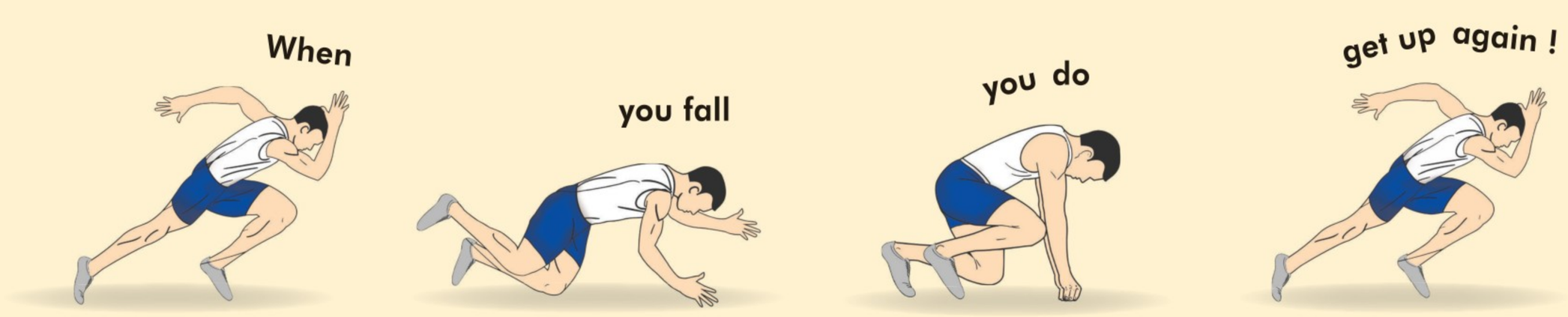

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2 accused in killing of Mirwaiz Farooq held
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Families felt doctor visits were not needed
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LSG beats MI in a thriller, goes third
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NEARBY

Promise of new BBMP law may delay civic polls

BENGALURU
Hopes of an immediate civic election seem to be a mirage again, as Congress has promised to bring in a new law for city governance » PAGE 3

BU relieves several UVCE staff from service

BENGALURU
Despite the State government extending the status quo of the UVCE's academic and administrative arrangement with BU, the latter has relieved 77 faculty and 29 technical staff of UVCE from service.
» PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Shivakumar presses his case; talks inconclusive

He and Siddaramaiah meet Kharge; Congress president holds a meeting with Rahul Gandhi and other central leaders; another round of meetings on selecting Karnataka CM expected today

Varghese K. George
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Congress leadership's deliberations to select a new Chief Minister for Karnataka remained inconclusive as rival claimants, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, refused to back down from their respective positions on Tuesday.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who met both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar at his residence, is likely to hold another round of meetings on Wednesday, sources said.

Mr. Shivakumar is learnt to have communicated to the central leadership that making him the Chief Minister would be in the interest of the party, pointing out that Mr. Siddaramaiah had previously had a full five-year term as CM, but lost the State election in 2018. Now at 76, the veteran should make way for a new face, he argued.

Confusion continues: KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar leaving party president Mallikarjun Kharge's house in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Veterans' stand

Party sources told *The Hindu* that some veterans in the party share the view that Mr. Siddaramaiah, who joined the party in 2006, shouldn't get one more term, while not necessarily rooting for the KPCC chief.

Digging his heels in, Mr. Shivakumar told central leaders that Mr. Siddaramaiah, as Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and Chief Minister, had held his personal interests above that of the party's.

It is learnt that in his discussions with central leaders, he catalogued Mr. Siddaramaiah's actions that apparently hurt the party, including the defections that led to the formation of the BJP government in the State in July 2019. "It was his loyalists who defected," a source close to the KPCC chief told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Don't create atmosphere of fear, court cautions ED

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday cautioned the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against creating an "atmosphere of fear", after the Chhattisgarh government alleged that the Central agency was "running amok" in the State to "implicate" Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in a money laundering case linked to a ₹2,000-crore liquor scam.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said even a "bona fide cause" would seem suspect if a law enforcement agency conducted itself in a way that created an atmosphere of fear.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for Chhattisgarh, submitted in court that over 50 excise department officials in the State have complained about threats and "mental and physical torture" from the ED during the course of investigation.

> It is a shocking state of affairs. The ED is running amok. They are threatening excise officers
>
> **SENIOR ADVOCATE KAPIL SIBAL** for the State of Chhattisgarh

"It is a shocking state of affairs. The ED is running amok. They are threatening excise officers," he said. Mr. Sibal contended that the State's Assembly election was slated for 2023 "and that is why it is happening".

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju said the ED was just doing its duty and investigating a scam in the State.

The State, in an application, said, "52 officers of the Department of Excise have given complaint in writing alleging mental and physical torture by the officers of the Enforcement Directorate during the course of investigation". Chhattisgarh said that it found itself in a "peculiar situation where any action by the State investigative agency against the Central agencies would lead to a Centre-State conflict".

The State noted that several officers have made serious allegations that even their family members were not spared. They too were "physically abused and threatened to sign blank pages or pre-typed documents".

It added that one of the petitioners in the liquor scam case has put it on record before the Special Judge, PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act), that "he is being beaten up to name the Chief Minister of the State".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

After 'slight delay', monsoon to set in over Kerala on June 4

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The monsoon is likely to set in over Kerala with a "slight delay" on June 4, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday. The usual onset date over Kerala is June 1, within a seven-day window.

The IMD in April forecast a "normal" monsoon during the June-September season, though at 96% of the Long Period Average (LPA), it is at the lowest end of what the agency categorises as "normal rainfall." The LPA represents the average monsoon rainfall over India of 89 cm.

The major factor expected to cause diminished rains this year is the development of an El Nino, a cyclical phenomenon of warming in the Central Pacific that six in 10 years is linked to diminished rainfall in west, northwest and western parts of Central India.

Since 2019, India has been under the influence of the converse 'La Nina' or a cooling in those regions, and therefore substantial monsoon rains.

The arrival of the monsoon over Kerala does not have a bearing on the quantity of monsoon rain, though a timely arrival helps farmers prepare for kharif sowing.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

COVID-hit academic skills on road to recovery, finds survey

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A review of 'Kalika Chetarike' (learning recovery) programme, which was started by the Department of School Education and Literacy to mitigate learning loss owing to the pandemic-induced school closure, has thrown up some heartening results.

Around 87% of the teachers who responded to a survey said there was improvement in the learning ability of the students owing to the programme, while 88% of the parents said that children learn better through Kalika Chetarike sheets. Around 89% students and 84% teachers talked of increased interest to come to school and improved attendance.

There was improvement in language, numerical and other skills among students between Class II and Class IX as per the review results, which was based on a survey taken up across many government schools.

Students returning after school in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

DETAILS » PAGE 2

Khasi tribal council order on surname sets off row in matrilineal Meghalaya

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A tribal council's order not to issue a Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificate to any Khasi person who adopts father's surname has triggered a war of words in matrilineal Meghalaya.

The Khasis, numbering about 1.39 lakh, are one of the three indigenous matrilineal communities in the north-eastern State. The other two are Garos and Jaintias.

The Voice of the People Party (VPP), an 18-month-old political entity that won four Assembly seats in the February 27 election, has been critical of the order of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) about a month ago.

In that order, the KHADC directed the headmen of all villages and urban localities across the Khasi domain not to issue ST certificates to those who adopt their father's surname instead of sticking to tradition by taking their mother's clan name.

"I will fight for my children if there is an attempt to take away their right of being called Khasis," VPP president and MLA Ardent Miller Basaiawmoit said at a public meeting in the State's Nongpoh recently.

His children are using his surname.

"Why can they not be considered Khasi when my wife and I are Khasis?" he asked.

"We cannot use the surname of the father as we are a matrilineal society. This is applicable to Basaiawmoit and every other Khasi," KHADC's chief executive member, Titosstarwell Chyne said.

The Khasis, numbering about 1.39 lakh, are one of the three indigenous matrilineal communities in Meghalaya. RITU RAJ KONWAR

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

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Text&Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

The jump in Indian Oil Corporation's net profit in March quarter

67 In percentage. IOC's net profit jumped in the March quarter on the back of a recovery in fuel marketing margins and better refining margins. A fall in international oil prices has meant more healthy margins. PTI

The years after which Syria is back in the Arab League

11 The Arab League on Sunday agreed to reinstate Syria. The body suspended Syria in November 2011 over its violent crackdown on protests, spiralling into a conflict that killed more than 5,00,000 people. AFP

Argentina increases the interest rate to tame inflation

97 In percentage. For the second time in less than a month, Argentina's central bank hiked its base interest rate as the government prepares to tackle soaring inflation ahead of October's general election. AFP

Vodafone to slash 10% of its workforce in fresh tech layoffs

11,000 jobs. Vodafone is set to axe these jobs over three years as new boss Margherita Della Valle slammed its recent performance. AFP

The rural households provided with tap water connection

12 In crore. These connections are provided under the Jal Jeevan Mission. However, less than 50% of rural households in nine States and UTs are yet to receive the connection. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why spurious liquor kills

What has the World Health Organization said about the consumption of alcohol? What happens inside the body after methanol ingestion? What are the industrial applications of methanol? What are the effects of methanol poisoning? Can such poisoning be treated?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

As of 10 p.m. on May 16, as many as 22 people had died after consuming spurious liquor in the Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu, while more than 30 others were still being treated in hospitals. The incidents occurred barely a month after the State government said that it had brought such deaths under control. They are also tinged with an element of surprise because liquor sales in Tamil Nadu are wholly controlled by the State, via more than 5,300 outlets. The State government is currently in the process of closing 500 outlets.

What is the alcohol in liquor?

Liquor is differentiated by its alcohol content – from the 5% or so of beer to the 12% or so of wine to the 40% or so of distilled spirits (all by volume). In the beverages consumed for recreational purposes, the alcohol in question is almost always ethanol. Technically, in this context, ethanol is a psychoactive drug that, in low doses, reduces the level of neurotransmission in the body, leading to its typical intoxicating effects.

Contrary to popular belief, the World Health Organization has found that "no level of [its] consumption is safe for our health". Long-term use leads to dependence, heightens the risk of some cancers and heart disease, and may eventually cause death.

Ethanol (C_2H_5OH) is one carbon atom bonded to three hydrogen atoms and one more carbon atom; the second carbon atom is also bonded to two hydrogen atoms and the hydroxyl group, also known as the ion OH^-. Inside the body, it is metabolised in the liver and the stomach by alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) enzymes to acetaldehyde. Then aldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH) enzymes transform the acetaldehyde into acetate. The adverse effects of alcohol consumption, from the hangover to a cancer, are due to acetaldehyde.

What is spurious liquor?

Spurious liquor is characterised by the liquid mixture containing methanol as well. The police have thus far determined that the spurious liquor in both the Chengalpattu and Villupuram incidents arose from the same source, and that *arrack* sellers had purchased industrial-grade methanol from factories and sold it to the victims. (*Arrack* is distilled from the fermented sap of the palm tree.) In many older cases, such liquor is typically a home-made liquor, such as arrack, to which methanol was added to strengthen the intoxicating effects (in colloquial parlance, its kick) and/or to increase its bulk volume.

The Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations 2018 stipulate the maximum permissible quantity of methanol in different liquors. These values span a wide range, including "absent" in coconut fenny, 50 grams per 100 litres in country liquor, and 300 grams per 100 litres in pot-distilled spirits.

What is methanol?

The methanol molecule (CH_3OH) consists of one carbon atom bonded with three hydrogen atoms and one hydroxyl group.

Schedule I of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules 1989 includes methanol. The Indian Standard IS 517 applies to how the quality of methanol is to be ascertained, and together with the Tamil Nadu Denatured Spirit, Methyl Alcohol, and Varnish (French Polish) Rules 1959, what signage, methanol packaging should carry. The most common way to produce methanol is to combine carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of copper and zinc oxides as catalysts at 50-100 atm of pressure and 250°C. In the pre-industrial era, going back to ancient Egypt, people also made methanol (together with several other byproducts) by heating wood to a very high temperature.

Death potion: Villagers block a road after five people died by allegedly consuming spurious liquor, in Viluppuram district on May 14. PTI

According to James Manor, "In every hooch tragedy in the history of India – and of the world since 1945 – the poison has been methanol"

Methanol has several industrial applications, including as a precursor to acetic acid, formaldehyde, and aromatic hydrocarbons. It is also used as a solvent and as antifreeze. In Tamil Nadu, the manufacture, export, import, storage, and sale of methanol requires licences under the 1959 Rules.

How does spurious liquor kill?

The deadliness of spurious liquor arises from methanol.

According to James Manor, emeritus professor of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London, "In every hooch tragedy in the history of India – and of the world since 1945 – the poison has been methanol." The human body contains infinitesimal quantities of methanol (4.5 ppm in the breath of healthy individuals, per a 2006 study) as a result of eating some fruits. But even for an adult, more than 0.1 ml of pure methanol per kilogram of body-weight can be devastating.

Once ingested, methanol is metabolised in the liver by ADH enzymes to form formaldehyde (H-CHO). Then ALDH enzymes convert formaldehyde to formic acid (HCOOH). The accumulation of formic acid over time leads to a baneful condition called metabolic acidosis. Acidosis can lead to acidemia, a condition wherein the blood's pH drops below its normal value of 7.35, becoming increasingly acidic. The blood's pH is normally maintained by a balance between an acid, like carbon dioxide, and a base, like the bicarbonate ion (HCO_3^-). As methanol is metabolised, the concentration of the bicarbonate ion drops, leading to the acid gaining the upper hand. Formic acid also interferes with an enzyme called cytochrome oxidase, which in turn disrupts cells' ability to use oxygen and leads to the build-up of lactic acid, contributing to acidosis.

According to a paper published by *Archives of Toxicology* in January 2022, consuming methanol also leads to "methanol-induced optic neuropathy ..., a serious condition that may result in long-term or irreversible visual impairment or even blindness [due to] damage and loss of function of the optic nerve and retina".

Methanol-poisoning can also cause cerebral edema, haemorrhage, and death.

How can such poisoning be treated?

Once methanol is ingested, the body takes some time to completely eliminate it. One estimate suggests that as much as 33% is still left behind after 48 hours. It is completely absorbed via the gastrointestinal tract and the blood-methanol level can reach its maximum value within 90 minutes. There are two immediate ways to treat methanol poisoning. One is to administer ethanol (of a pharmaceutical grade, by healthcare workers). This may sound counter-intuitive but ethanol competes very well with methanol for the ADH enzymes. As a result, the methanol is kept from being metabolised to formaldehyde.

The other option is to administer an antidote called fomepizole, which has a similar mechanism – it slows the action of the ADH enzymes, causing the body to produce formaldehyde at a rate that the body can quickly excrete, preventing the deadlier effects from kicking in. Both courses of action are limited by the availability of their characteristic compounds. Fomepizole is expensive whereas pharmaceutical-grade ethanol needs to be administered under supervision.

Healthcare workers may also have the individual undertake a dialysis to remove methanol and formic acid salts from the blood, and mitigate damage to the kidneys and retina. They may also administer folinic acid, which encourages the formic acid to break up into carbon dioxide and water. Both fomepizole and folinic acid are in the WHO's list of essential medicines.

The formic acid would have begun accumulating in dangerous amounts around 18-24 hours after ingestion, affecting the optic nerve, kidneys, the heart, and the brain. Ophthalmic effects have been observed in 50% of those who have consumed methanol, and they become apparent within 24 hours.

If the individual consumed ethanol along with the methanol, the damage may not be evident until after a few days, further delaying treatment and increasing mortality.

THE GIST

- As of 10 p.m. on May 16, as many as 22 people had died after consuming spurious liquor in the Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu, while more than 30 others were still being treated in hospitals.
- The deadliness of spurious liquor arises from methanol. The human body contains infinitesimal quantities of methanol (4.5 ppm in the breath of healthy individuals, per a 2006 study) as a result of eating some fruits. But even for an adult, more than 0.1 ml of pure methanol per kilogram of body-weight can be devastating.
- In Tamil Nadu, the manufacture, export, import, storage, and sale of methanol requires licences under the State's Denatured Spirit, Methyl Alcohol, and Varnish (French Polish) Rules 1959.

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INBRIEF

Samaya Chakra Raga Mala programme on Friday

Bijapure Harmonium Foundation, in association with Sapthak, Bengaluru and Kamath and Kamath, will present "Amritmala, a journey on the Samaya Chakra through three Ragamalas" on Friday. The organisers say that it is a novel concept showcasing a unique feature of Raga sangeet tradition which associates "samay chakra" (or time-appropriateness) with each raga. Three raga malas -- featuring morning, afernoon and evening ragas -- will be preformed in a two-hour programme. The composition, covering overall 75 ragas, has been composed by Dr. Ravindra Gururaj Katoti. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Katoti, founder trustee of Bijapure Harmonium Foundation, said that the programme is an event to celebrate Azadi ka Amrith Mahotsav by performing a raga mala featuring 75 ragas in Samaya Chakra format.

The team of musicians who will be performing in the event include Dhananjay Hegde, Omkar Havaldar and Koushik Aithal on vocal. Pt. Ravindra Yavagal will be on tabla, Ustad Rafique Khan will be on Sitar, Shadaj Godkhndi will be on flute, while Dr. Ravindra Gururaj Katoti will be on harmonium. Dr. Shatavadhani R Ganesh will present a pre-concert lecture on the concept. The event will be held at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, 6 p.m. onwards.

BWSSB to organise water adalat tomorrow

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold Water Adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in various parts of the city to settle issues related to water billing, delay in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delay in converting from domestic connection to non domestic connection and other related problems. According to a BWSSB release, the adalat will be held at (North West-2), North West-4, Central-1-2, North East-2, (North-1)-2, North-2-2, (South-1)-2, (South-2)-2, (South West-2), (South West-5), (East-1)-3 and (East-2-)-3 subdivisions.

For any problems regarding the water supply, contact the helpline number 1916. Complaints can be filed through WhatsApp no: 8762228888, the release said.

Kalika Chetarike has improved students' learning ability, says survey

In mid-line survey, which was conducted by Dept. of School Education and Literacy, around 87% of the teachers said that there is an improvement in learning ability of students because of the programme

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The 'Kalika Chetarike' programme, which was formulated to arrest the learning loss of students reported due to the COVID-19 pandemic induced school closure, has succeeded in improving the learning abilities of students, according to a survey.

In the mid-line survey, which was conducted by the Department of School Education and Literacy, around 87% of the teachers shared that there is an improvement in learning ability of the students because of the programme. Also, 88% of the parents said that children learn better through Kalika Chetarike sheets.

The prolonged school closure and limited learning opportunities for the students during the COVID-19 pandemic had led to a decline in learning levels among the children. This has become evident in many recent surveys including the National Achievement Survey - 2021 and Annual Status of Education Report 2022. Apart from this, the National Education Policy-2020 advocates that every student in primary school should achieve basic literacy and numeracy as the first priority of the education system.

Taking cognizance of the situation, the State government had launched 'Kalika Chetarike (Learning Recovery)' in the academic year of 2022-23.

The focus of the programme is more on the learning recovery for all school children rather than just the completion of the current grade level syllabus. A lot of activities and teaching through worksheets were introduced in the programme. The department conducted a mid-line survey in December 2022, covering 692 primary and 330 high schools with approximately 78,000 and 50,000 children, respectively, from Grades 2 to 9 across 35 districts and 204 blocks. The data was collected by 3,400 teachers.

Better attendance

The results of the survey show that the changed pedagogy and usage of worksheets/activity sheets helped to create a rising interest among students towards school and thus improving attendance. Around 89% students and 84% teachers mentioned the increased interest to come to school and improved attendance.

Among those surveyed, 60% of the parents said they participated in their children's learning through homework/activities given by the school. The same section (60%) also shared that a few times they helped their children in learning at home.

The study shows that 47% of both Grade 2 and 3 students attained the learning outcomes for their levels, i.e., ability to read a simple sentence in Kannada in the Foundational Literacy section. Around 81% developed necessary oral language development and phonological skills.

Foundational literacy

KANNADA FOR GRADE 2 AND 3
- 47% of grade 2 and 3 students are able to read a simple sentence
- 81% of children in both grades have developed the necessary oral language development and phonological skills

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- 58% of grade 2 students can do simple conversation
- 44% of grade 3 students can read a simple sentence

FOUNDATIONAL NUMERACY

MATHS
- 74% of grade 2 students can answer a simple one-digit subtraction word problem
- 69% of grade 3 students can answer simple three-digit additional problem

KANNADA LANGUAGE
- 58% of grade 4, 64% of grade 5, 68% of grade 6, 73% of grade 7, 76% of grade 8 and 72% of grade 9 students are able to read a paragraph/ story
- 46% of total children from grades to 4 to 9 are able to write well with fewer mistakes
- 40%, 41%, 43%, 45%, 51%, and 54% of grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 students, respectively, are able to write well with fewer mistakes

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- 34%, 40%, 40%, 46%, 51% and 41% of grade 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 students, respectively, can read a sentence
- 79% of grade 4 students, 68% of grade 5 students, and 60% grade 6 students have achieved the outcome

MATHS
- Students of grades 4 to 9 were assessed
- 31%, 39%, 39%, 44%, 46% and 46% of students from grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are able to recognize four-digit numbers

Schoolchildren returning home after school. FILE PHOTO

CBSE exam: THiS institutions record excellent results

Sudhindr A.B.
BENGALURU

The schools, which are a part of The Hindu in School (THiS) programme recorded excellent results in the CBSE examination. The results were declared on Friday.

In Sri Jnanakshi Vidyaniketan, R.R. Nagar, 151 students appeared and 27 secured distinctions. Asthi S Shetty (96%) was the topper.

In National Hill View Public School, Banashankari, 37 students appeared and all passed in first class. The school achieved 100% pass for four years. Amogh Nataraj (98.6%) was the topper.

In National Public School, Rajajinagar, in Class 12, all 84 students passed in science and in commerce, all 17 students passed. Susmit Roy (98.4%) in science and Tarun K., (93.2%) were the toppers.

In BGS National Public School, Hulimavu, all 93 students passed in Class 12. Vriddhi Agrawal (98.4%) was the topper. In Class 10, all 332 students passed. Sanath Koundinya (99.5%) was topper.

In Presidency School, Kasturimagar, 183 students appeared in Class 10 and 73 scored 90% and above marks. V. Vasudev Vudatha and Kolli Sai Amrutha by both securing 96.6%, emerged toppers. In Class 12, 53 students appeared, and 21 scored 90% and above marks. Aaron B. Ajay and Owais Saud Tanveer by both securing 95.4% were toppers.

In National Public School, Yeshwantpur, in Class 10, all 134 students and in Class 12, all 73 students passed in first class. N. Ananth and Yash Panchaxari by both securing 97% were toppers in Class 10. In Class 12, Niharika V and Pavithra Manikandan, both securing 96.6% were toppers in science. In commerce, Ann Jacob and Himangi Pamecha by both securing 96.2% emerged toppers.

The first batch of HAL New Public School, HAL Central Township, achieved 100% pass with all 20 students passed. Varsha A Hebbal (94.4%) was the topper.

சித்த மருத்துவ மைய ஆராய்ச்சி நிலையம்
(மத்திய சித்த மருத்துவ ஆராய்ச்சிக் குழுமம், ஆயுஷ் அமைச்சகம், இந்திய அரசு)
सिद्ध केंद्रीय अनुसंधान संस्थान
SIDDHA CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Central Council for Research in Siddha, Chennai, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India)
Anna Govt. Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai - 600 106. E-mail: crisiddha@gmail.com
Phone : 044-26214925 , 26214809, Web : http://crisiddha.tn.nic.in
ADVT. NO: 3/2023 Walk-in Interview
Walk-in interview for the post of Junior Research Fellow (Biotechnology) - One on 31.05.2023 and Senior Research Fellow (Pharmacology)- One on 08.06.2023 for various IMR research projects will be held at Siddha Central Research Institute, Chennai at 10.00 A.M. Details are available in the website www.siddhacouncil.com and www.crisiddha.tn.nic.in.
Research Officer (Siddha), Sci-III & I/c

Man arrested for smoking inside aircraft

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The International Airport police on Tuesday, arrested a 56-year-old man who was caught smoking in the washroom of a domestic flight.

The accused Praveen Kumar, native of Rajasthan, was flying in Akasa Air domestic flight from Ahmedabad to Bengaluru.

A few passengers got the smell of smoke and alerted the cabin crew, who caught Praveen Kumar red-handed and handed him over to the police as soon as the flight landed at the Kempegowda International Airport.

Based on a complaint filed by Vijay Thulluru, Duty Manager, SNV aviation Pvt. Ltd., KIAL, Bengaluru, the police had booked a case and are probing to ascertain security lapses. The police have booked the accused under Section 25 of the aircraft rules and also under Section 336 (endangering human life and personal safety of others) and arrested him.

"On May 16, a passenger on Akasa Air flight QP1326, flying from Ahmedabad to Bengaluru, was found smoking in the lavatory of the aircraft. Our crew followed the required safety protocols and the passenger was handed over to the local police with the help of CISF, upon landing in Bengaluru. We are assisting authorities with their investigation into this matter," Akasa Air Spokesperson said.

This is the third such incident reported this year - Seheri Choudhari, 20, from Govindapura village in Assam was caught smoking in a toilet mid-air in the last week of March. He managed to hoodwink the security staff and got the cigarette pack and lighter in the backpack.

Earlier in March first week, a 24-year-old woman was arrested for smoking in the lavatory. The accused Priyanka Chakraborty was from Sealdah, in West Bengal. In this case too, the accused managed to get the cigarettes and lighter hoodwinking the security checks at the airports.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. www.isec.ac.in
Advertisement No. A/2/2023 Date: 16.05.2023
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM THE ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING BACKLOG FACULTY POSTS

Sl.No.	Designation	No.of Post	Discipline	Shortfall		
				SC	ST	OBC
1	Assistant Professor	4	Economics	1	-	1
			Political Science	-	-	1
			Education	-	1	-

The detailed Advertisement and procedure for applying for the above posts is available at our Website: www.isec.ac.in.
Last date of receipt of applications: 12th June 2023.
ISEC-23404 Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients Mr. VENKATESAN K.J S/o. Mr.K.R.Jagadeesan & Mrs. V. KALPANA RANI W/o Mr. Venkatesan K.J are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from Mr. D. MANJUNATH S/o Late. Doreswamy any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Site No.646, in the layout formed by "The Vyalikaval House Building Co-Operative Society Limited", formed out of land bearing Survey No. 35/4 of NAGAWARA VILLAGE, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now is in the limits of BBMP, assigned as New Municipal Khata No.567/646, Situated at VYALIKAVAL HBCS, NAGAWARA, BBMP Ward No.23, Bangalore, measuring East to West : 40-0 Feet and North to South : 30-0 Feet, and bounded on the: East by : Site No.627, West by : Road, North by : Site No.645, South by : Site No.647
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients MR. SELVAM KRISHNAN S/o. Mr. Krishnan and MR. SARAVANAN YUVARAJ S/o. Mr. Yuvaraj are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from SMT. SUJATHA BALRAJ W/o. Sri. A. Ramesh Kumar Represented by her GPA holder & Father SRI. BALRAJ PERUMAL NAIDU S/o. Sri. Perumal Naidu, any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Immovable property bearing Site No.3 and 18, formed out of Sy No.151/1, Portion of House List Katha No.105, Situated at: Horamavu Agara Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, erstwhile Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, BBMP ward No.25, in all measuring 2580 square feet and bounded on the: East by : Private Property ; West by: Private Property; North by: Road; South by: Road;
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Balaji Babu J S/o V Jagannath Office at No. 80, Unit-101 Ground Floor, Ahad Pinnacle, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, 5th Block, Koramangala Industrial Area Bangalore 560 095, is my client.
My client represents that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property of Land bearing Sy.Nos.341 situated at Belavadi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna and he has lost/misplaced the Original Confirmation Deed, while taking for xerox Regd. Confirmation Deed Doc. No. SRP-1-00943/2013-14, CD No. SRPD85 dated 05/06/2013 given by Sri. Sunil S/o Shivanna & others in favour of A. S. Ravindra S/o Late A. C. Srikantaiah with respect to Sy.No.341, the owners have also filed a police complaint with the Koramangala Police Station, on 16.05.2023 Lost Report .No.0564486/2023 informing about the loss of schedule documents and apart from them there are no other person/s having any right, title or claim over the schedule property and they have not mortgaged nor created any lien or encumbered the schedule property in any manner and has not entered into any agreement of sale/memorandum of understanding/assignment agreement/nomination agreement with any person/s.
Any person/s has/have any objection/s or claims with schedule documents or schedule property, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s or claim/s with in 7 days from the date of this notice with the undersigned.
Schedule of the Property: Sy No. 341 Extent: 2 Acres 4 Guntas; Boundary: East : Halla, West: Chikkananajaiah's Land, North: Madevau @ Jabbaiah's Land, South: Remaining Land of 341
Advocate Dore Rao
No. 80, Unit 101, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, 5th Block, Koramangala, Industrial Area, Bangalore – 560 095. Ph : 9844866773

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
Open E-Tender Notice
Chief Project Manager, Gati-Shakati unit, N.W.Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.30 hours on the date shown as below- Name of work with location: GSU-ENGG-JP-2023-24-20 Dy. CE (GSU) JP Div.: Provision of 12 metre wide FOB works in connection with Amrita Bharat station scheme at Rewari, Khairthal, Alwar, Rajgarh, Bandikui, Dausa, Asalpur Jobner, Phulera, Naraina, Ringus, Nim ka thana, Sikar & Jhunjhunu Station. Approx Cost of Work: 721783256/-, Bid of Security Rs.: 3758900/-. Detail is available on N.W.Rly website-www.ireps.gov.in and Notice Board in CPM/GSU/JP Office, NWR/Jaipur., Tender No. GSU-ENGG-JP-2023-24-20 is be closed on 09.06.23 at 15.30 hrs. and opened on 09.06.23 at 16.00hrs.
513-PR/23
Follow us at /NWRailways NWRailways_

Clerk loses ₹25,000 while buying headphone online

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Purchasing a headphone online worth ₹1,000 proved costly for 37-year-old First Division Assistant at the police department as cyber crooks, making use of his credit card details, withdrew ₹25,000 on Friday night.

Based on the complaint filed by Mohan Rangaswamy, the Ramanagara cyber crime police have registered a case and are investigating. Mr. Mohan was checking for the headphone on an e-commerce portal and selected the item. Since he could not find cash on delivery option, he used his credit card details on the website along with the PIN number to make the payment. Within second he realised that a total sum of ₹24,884 had been deducted.

Mohan called the bank's customer care and raised a complaint before approaching the police. The police are now trying to track down the fraudsters while bank officials are trying to reverse the payment.

EDUCATION HUB

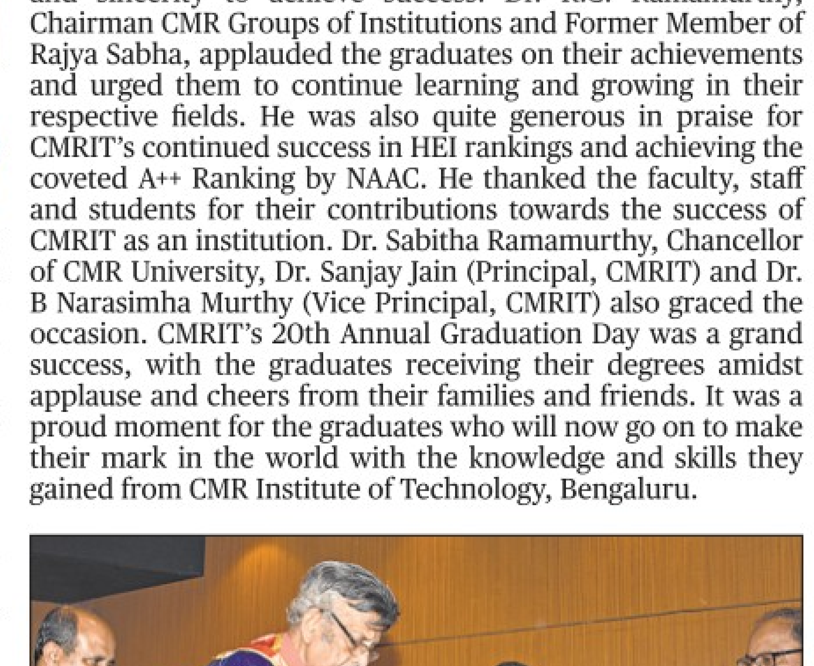
A Business Initiative

The Open Day Project Exhibition " PRADARSHANA - 2023" ws organized at Ramaiah Institute of Technology Bangalore on 15th and 16th of May 2023.

Pradarshana-2023, creative projects that showcase learning are reflected as industry- or user-defined problems. It established an unique platform for the students to demonstrate their creative ideas into techno-commercial goods and business strategies, thereby unleashing their potential.. It's a platform which gives knowledge to the students and develop their interest to research further on topics other than they learnt in their curriculum. The RIT students' holistic growth is promoted through a variety of mediums, including exhibitions, seminars, projects, and presentations. The Open Day Project Exhibition Pradarshana -2023 was Inaugurated on 15th May 2023 at 11am by Chief Guests, Dr. Nagahanumaiah, Director, Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI), Bengaluru, Karnataka and Dr. M.R. Jayaram, Hon'ble Chairman, Gokula Education Foundation (GEF). Dr. Nagahanumaiah, addressed the gathering and underlined the need for innovation and advancement in technology. He also stressed on the essentiality of faculty in the involvement for scientific and technology development. The Chief Guests released an Abstract Book on the occasion. The book contains the brief description of all Final Year Projects of all the Engineering branches. The Chief Guests and the other dignitaries visited the exhibition. Some of the students briefly explained and demonstrated their Project work. The Exhibition also provided an avenue to choose best projects from each department. The departments invite industry and academicians to evaluate their respective department Projects. The Best Project awards, cash prize and certificates were distributed during the Farewell Function of the Institute This year a total of 403 Final Year Projects were displayed in Pradarshana, some industry stalls were showcasing their new products. Pradarshana was open to all prospective students, Parents, investors in the industry, stake holders and general interested public.

CMRIT Lionized for Start-up & Tech Innovation Culture by AICTE Chairman on CMRIT's 20th Annual Graduation Day

CMR Institute of Technology celebrated its 20th Graduation Day ceremony where 1201 students graduated with flying colors. The graduates, who completed their studies in various fields including Engineering, Management, and Computer Applications, were felicitated during the ceremony. The event was a culmination of the hard work, dedication, and commitment shown by the students, faculty and staff of the institute. The event was graced by Prof. Dr. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE. Speaking on this occasion, he congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to strive for excellence in their future endeavors. He also commended the institute for its efforts in imparting quality education to the students and preparing them to face the challenges of the modern world. He highlighted the initiatives taken by AICTE and encouraged the students to inculcate hard work and sincerity to achieve success. Dr. K.C. Ramamurthy, Chairman CMR Groups of Institutions and Former Member of Rajya Sabha, applauded the graduates on their achievements and urged them to continue learning and growing in their respective fields. He was also quite generous in praise for CMRIT's continued success in HEI rankings and achieving the coveted A++ Ranking by NAAC. He thanked the faculty, staff and students for their contributions towards the success of CMRIT as an institution. Dr. Sabitha Ramamurthy, Chancellor of CMR University, Dr. Sanjay Jain (Principal, CMRIT) and Dr. B Narasimha Murthy (Vice Principal, CMRIT) also graced the occasion. CMRIT's 20th Annual Graduation Day was a grand success, with the graduates receiving their degrees amidst applause and cheers from their families and friends. It was a proud moment for the graduates who will now go on to make their mark in the world with the knowledge and skills they gained from CMR Institute of Technology, Bengaluru.



SJIM celebrates 26th Convocation Day; 170 students awarded Post Graduate Diplomas in Management

St. Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM) proudly celebrated its 26th Convocation Day on 13th May 2023. Rev. Fr. Dionysius Vaz SJ, Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit Province and Chairman of SJIM's Governing Council, awarded one hundred seventy students their Post Graduate Diplomas in Management (PGDM). In his subsequent Presidential Address, he reminded the outgoing students of the Jesuit pillars of education that they have been equipped with, especially social concern. Mr. Romal Shetty, CEO of Deloitte South Asia, delivered the Convocation Address. He imparted several valuable pieces of advice to the students: to embrace mundane tasks with a positive attitude, to pursue excellence and develop resilience, to engage in lifelong skill development, to make oneself invaluable to the organization and to make a difference to society through their profession. Finally, he reminded them that success requires hard work, and lots of it. In the past year, SJIM has continued to reach greater heights. As SJIM Director, Dr. Manoj D'Souza SJ, pointed out in his Annual Report, this year, SJIM has been accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA). The Indian government-authorized Association of Indian Universities (AIU) also recognized SJIM's PGDM program as equivalent to an MBA. In addition, SJIM is ranked among the top business schools in the Ministry of Education's NIRF rankings 2022-23.

ABSTRACT

ISTOCKPHOTO

How subaltern women writers broke conventions and took on patriarchy

Through the writings of three non-Brahminical women, the author discusses a subaltern narrative of womanhood that defies looking at women as symbols of the moral health of society or as flag-bearers of nationalism and culture

Rebecca Rose Varghese

Ingole, Anagha, 'Imagining a New Ethic of Sociality: The Non-Brahmin Educated Woman in 19th-Century Western India', Sage Journals, Vol 58, Issue no. 13, April 1, 2023

While many scholars have discussed how subaltern literature has challenged and helped us imagine a new version of history, Anagha Ingole's article deciphers the writings of three non-Brahmin educated women, whose writings, distinct from Brahmin writings of their time questioned the dominant narrative of womanhood in historiographies. The author explains that these women, through a writing style different from that of upper-caste women of that period, broke away from concepts of tradition, nationality and culture on the one hand, and liberalism and modernity on the other.

Two readings of womanhood

In the 19th century, two contrasting perspectives on Indian womanhood emerged. The European viewpoint perceived women in India as confined by Brahminical orthodoxy and Hindu traditions, requiring reform. The reformist narrative aimed to modernise women, believing that introducing them to education and liberal enlightenment would guide society towards progress. Women became symbols of a society's moral health.

However, nationalist historiography rejected such an understanding of Indian womanhood. It reimagined womanhood as emerging from colonial encounters while distinguishing it from the narratives of traditional memsahibs or lower-class/caste women. The new Indian woman became the protector of Indian culture and nationalism. Indian womanhood was the placeholder for the inner core of nationalism that was spiritual and cultural, distinct from the outer core of nationalism that dealt with state and political economy.

Yet, the author explains that both historiographies shared commonalities – they recognised the necessity of modernity and neglected women's experiences. Even when their experiences were considered, the intersection of gender and caste was overlooked, limiting the narratives to upper-caste women's experiences.

Scholars like Partha Chatterjee suggest that lower-caste women could not grasp the virtues of freedom. Their resistance against caste issues merged with anti-colonial narratives. While the woman's question could not neglect lower-caste women's experiences, it did not play a key role in shaping the intellectual discourse on womanhood. Hence, the onus of telling the Dalit experience and its difference and relevance in the overall narrative around womanhood shifted to Dalit feminist scholars.

Changing the narrative

The author clarifies that it was not as if women never wrote and shared their narratives. But Brahmin or upper-caste women typically adhered to a set pattern, writing autobiographies that downplayed their roles and emphasised domesticity. In contrast, non-Brahmin feminist writers like Savitribai Phule, Tarabai Shinde, and Mukta Salve broke conventions in their writing forms and included non-conventional and explosive topics of discussion, questioned the societal norms of patriarchy and discussed caste discrimination.

Savitribai Phule chose poetry and verses as her form of writing. Education, women's liberty and oppression of the lower castes were recurrent themes. Even when she used literary conventions, she would write on non-conventional subjects. She used the *powada* (a poetic metre to sing the glory of warriors/kings) to write about the English language and twisted prayer forms to speak of the injustice done to the untouchable Shudra castes. Mukta Salve wrote about how the Peshwas tormented the Mangs and Mahars and her hope for liberation.

Tarabhai Shinde, although constrained by language limitations, fearlessly expressed her views as a writer, offering critiques of orthodox male writers and challenging patriarchy and its deep-seated connections to religion, caste, and societal norms – an unexplored territory in the country's literary landscape.

As these writers were not conventional when it came to their writing forms or subjects, their works often encountered scepticism.

Reimagining the role of education

One of the most important features of their writing was their approach to the meaning of education.

Initially wary of education due to their anxiety around caste purity , Brahmins eventually recognised its importance for government jobs, prosperity, and social status. To reconcile this conflict, Brahmins conveniently separated the inner and outer spheres, finding new justifications for their engagement with the English language and education. In parallel, as education became a means to ascend the social and economic ladder, it had become attractive to non-Brahmin communities as well. This limited non-Brahmin aspirations towards education to the Brahmin's utilitarian conception of education.

But while Savitribai Phule supported English education, it was not just as a means of expanding employment prospects. Education was enabling, it helped one look at their past critically, gave non-Brahmins access to history, and also helped them to communicate with other non-Brahmins. English education helped challenge the position given to non-Brahmins in society as the mythical history that limited their possibilities and capabilities was no longer blindly internalised as facts.

Mukta Salve looked at education as a way of healing from the caste oppression that her community had endured and hoped that it would create a new morality, distinct from that created by the Brahmins.

Thus, education in non-Brahmin women's writings had a different motivation from that of orthodox Brahmins. It had the power to heal, and the ability to transform the inner spiritual world characterised by caste hierarchy and question the interpretation of history.

Attacking double-standards

While Tarabhai Shinde does not dwell on the subject of education in depth, she points out the double standards of men who prohibit women's education, as they can easily step in and out of tradition. The writings by these women discuss how the deplorable condition of women and non-Brahminical castes is woven into religious beliefs and practices. Orthopraxy (right action) and orthodoxy complement each other when it comes to women. They explain how the 19th century was a period when men were seen to be glorious in every aspect, while women were considered to be a negative influence, an object to be owned and a force to be tamed with physical and psychological violence. Prohibition on remarriage, the lack of independence, and the crude restrictions on widowed women were examples of this.

Tarabhai Shinde's writings stand out as one of the strongest voices among non-Brahmin women to challenge this structure. Taking the examples of honourable women in the Shastras, she explains how women are vilified and belittled for vices they cannot overcome. She points out that such vilification is not limited to a single woman but *stree jati* as a whole within the Brahminical order. These writers appeal to society to understand how it denies women humanity, treats them as unequal and subjects them to violence.

They point out the hypocrisy in men's ability to transcend the orthopraxy of religion, while rules for women become stricter. Men could corrupt dharma by working under the British or travelling across the seas, while women were expected to uphold traditions and cultures and in general, hold the fort. These writers demand consistency and equality for women in resisting the orthopraxy in Hinduism.

Through the writings of three non-Brahminical women, the author discusses a subaltern narrative of womanhood that defies looking at women as symbols of the moral health of society or as flag-bearers of nationalism and culture. And in doing so, she shows how writings of non-Brahminical feminist scholars, unlike that of Brahminical women, asserted a position for womanhood in history by reimagining the morality of Hindu society and challenging the notion of women being mere subjects for liberal law and education to act upon.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Good morning, sir,"

"Good morning".

"Sir, Mr. K. R. Ramanan, Indian Bank, Annamalainagar, wants to know whether 'a' is necessary in the sentence, 'What sort of a man is the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikail Gorbachev?'"

" 'A' is necessary. When you ask such a question, you want to know about the qualities of the person concerned. Is he good, bad or indifferent? What sort of a teacher is he? What sort of an engineer is he? What sort of a minister is he?"

"Sir, can't we say, 'What sort of teacher is he?', leaving out 'a' before 'teacher'?"

"Yes, you can. But the meaning will be different. It would mean that you are interested in finding out whether the person is an English teacher or a Physics teacher and so on.

What sort of engineer is he? He is a mechanical engineer.

What sort of an engineer is he? He is an excellent engineer.

Do you understand the difference now?"

"Yes. Sir, Mr. D. Ramanathan, 24, East Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Tiruvanmiyur, Madras, wants to share a joke with you regarding the use of me in, 'It is me'."

"What's it?"

"After a hard day's labour, God and St. Peter sat down to supper when they heard a knock on the door. St. Peter said, "Who is it?". Prompt came the reply, "It is I." God said, "One more Professor of English for the day."

"That's a good one. Well, let's come down from heaven to earth. What's the next question?"

"Sir, Mr. R. B. Gadagkar, PA to the Director of Finance, Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd., Bangalore, wants to know whether the word 'etticacy' exists in English."

"No. it doesn't."

"But a number of people use it, sir."

"I know. But there is no such word in English. 'Etiquette' is the word that is used.

It is not etiquette to yawn in public.

'Etiquette' means 'the formal rules of behaviour'."

"Sir, how is the word pronounced?"

"The first two 'e's are pronounced like the 'e' in 'bed'; the 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'bid'; the final 'e' is silent. So it is pronounced 'etiket'. 'Eti' rhymes with 'petty' and 'et' rhymes with 'set'. The stress is on the first syllable. Is this clear?"

"Yes. Sir, Ms. Usha Ramakrishnan wants to know whether 'comely girl' and 'homely girl' are the same."

"No, no, not at all. A comely girl is an attractive girl. 'Comely' is an old-fashioned word. It is not used these days except occasionally in poetry. 'Homely', when applied to things, means 'plain, simple'. When something is homely, it is simple and plain.

It was a homely meal.

When applied to people, it means 'unattractive', 'ugly' in American English.

She is a homely girl.

So 'homely' and 'comely' are not the same. A 'comely' girl will be offended if you tell her she is a 'homely' girl. Well, even a homely girl wouldn't like to be told she is homely. It's getting late for you. Let's stop here."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

"Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was first published on May 17, 1900, and it became a classic of children's literature. Here is a quiz on children's authors and books

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

This is a literary genre in prose or verse that features animals, legendary creatures, plants, and inanimate objects and that illustrates or leads to a particular moral lesson, which may in the end be added explicitly as a concise saying. What are they called?

QUESTION 2

He was a Danish author, best remembered for *The Little Mermaid, The Ugly Duckling.* Identify the author. He was said to be inspired by which collection of West Asian folk tales?

QUESTION 3

This Indian author has written over 65 books for children. One of the popular fictional characters created by this author is Rusty. Name the author. Name the novel written by him that was later adapted into a 2005 Hindi film.

QUESTION 4

Franklin W. Dixon is the pen name used by a variety of different authors who were part of a team that wrote several mystery series for children and teens, involving two brothers Frank and Joe. What is the series?

QUESTION 5

This is a character created by American writer Johnny Gruelle that appeared in a series of books he wrote for young children. It is a rag doll with red yarn for hair. What is the name of the character?

QUESTION 6

What is the name of the fictional character who is red-haired, freckled, and superhumanly strong?

Visual question:

Identify this famous 1996 children's film which was based on an eponymous 1988 novel by a popular British author. Name the author.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The trophy for the highest scorer in La Liga. **Ans: Pichichi trophy, named after Rafael "Pichichi" Moreno.**

2. The trophy given to a goalkeeper who has the lowest goals-to-game ratio. **Ans: Zamora trophy, named for Ricardo Zamora.**

3. This player is placed third in the list of top overall goal scorers in La Liga. **Ans: Telmo Zarra, Athletic Bilbao**

4. How does Athletic Bilbao select its players? **Ans: Since 1912, the club has a policy wherein it will only sign players who were born in Basque [language/ethnicity] country or who learned their football skills at a Basque club**

5. Barcelona beat this team to capture the 2022-23 title. **Ans: Espanyol**

Visual: This player holds the record for most appearances in La Liga. **Ans: Andoni Zubizarreta**

Early Birds: Indra Sharma| Pranav Pranjal

Word of the day

Maul:
a heavy long-handled hammer used to drive stakes or wedges; injure badly by beating (used as a noun and a verb)

Synonyms: sledgehammer, mangle

Usage: *He was mauled by the rabid dog.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/maulpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /mɑːl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Tree fall

A tree fell on a house in Banashankari during the heavy rains recently. Civic activists have pointed out that as monsoon approaches, the BBMP needs to take necessary steps to avoid such incidents.
BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Cong. manifesto's promise of new BBMP law likely to delay civic polls

The party has promised that a new BBMP law will bring all service providers, such as water supply and sewage, transport, housing, power and development authorities, under a single agency. The proposal was welcomed by civic activists

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The outgoing State government under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) delayed holding civic polls in the city by over two and a half years, citing their efforts to revamp the city's governance with a new dedicated Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Act, 2020. Now that Congress is all set to take office, hopes of an immediate civic election, seem to be a mirage again, as Congress, that had opposed the BBMP Act, 2020 terming it a "missed opportunity to fix Bengaluru", has promised to bring in a new law for city governance.

It can be recalled that multiple Congress MLAs in the standing committee led by S. Raghu, BJP MLA, which reviewed the BBMP Act, 2020, did not sign the committee's recommendations in protest against the Draft Bill.

In its manifesto, Congress has promised that a new BBMP law will bring all service providers, such as water supply and sewage, transport, housing, power and development authorities, under a single agency.

The proposal was welcomed by several civic activists, if these parastatals are made answerable to BBMP. However, sources in Congress said all the various parastatals in the city will be brought under one agency chaired by the Chief Minister.

A file photo of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Head Office in Bengaluru.

"The BBMP Act, 2020 was done in a hurry and did little to fix the governance problem of the city. It was a copy-paste job of Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976 with some light tinkering. Except for increasing the number of wards from 198 to 243, it did very little. There is no decentralisation in the Act," said Krishna Byre Gowda, senior Congress MLA, who was a member of the standing committee and did not sign on the recommendations in protest.

It can be recalled that the previous Congress government had formed the BBMP Restructuring Committee, which had recommended to split BBMP into multiple corporations and have a Greater Bengaluru Authority under the CM in 2015.

The new agency, Congress manifesto talks of, is hinting at the same. The courts had then not allowed the government to postpone civic polls, which postponed the BBMP Act by five years.

"Now, though there is a BBMP Act, 2020, it does precious little. If we do not bring in a new law before the civic polls, we will end up postponing fixing the city governance by another five years, as the law cannot be brought mid-term of a council elected under the old law," said another senior Congress MLA in the city, arguing that anyway the city didn't have civic polls in two and a half years and a few more months to "fix the city governance" would do it little harm.

Other hurdles too

Earlier in June 2022, Congress had opposed the delimitation of 243 new wards and reservation list announced by the BJP government.

Senior Congress leaders had alleged that the delimitation of wards was carried out "at RSS offices" and was deliberately done in such a way so as to help BJP. The delimitation has sparked opposition from even within BJP, as Satish Reddy, Bommanahalli BJP MLA, had approached the High Court against it.

Abdul Wajeed, a former councillor from Congress, who had waged a legal battle demanding immediate elections to BBMP, said that once the new government is formed, they would appeal to them to review the delimitation exercise carried out by the previous BJP and redo it with a scientific approach.

Political compulsions

Though BJP has lost its vote share across the State, it has improved its vote share significantly by 5.4% despite an anti-incumbency wave against the Basavaraj Bommai-led government, making BJP bullish in the city. "BJP may now turn aggressive in pushing for the civic polls, as they have retained a lead and improved their vote share in the city. But holding civic polls during monsoons is a recipe for disaster. Any small flooding will have a big impact," said a senior Congress leader.

Event to discuss 'Digital archiving and universal access' on Friday

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

'Servants of Knowledge', a community initiative to bring knowledge in various fields into the public domain, will organise an event to discuss about "Digital archiving in public domain."

A panel discussion will be held in the Bengaluru International Centre in Domlur Second Stage, on Friday at 4 p.m.

Experts will introduce the process and technology involved in converting books, manuscripts and other material in public domain, into digital archives.

The team will demonstrate how the latest, state of the art technologies are used to allow common people across the globe to get free and open access to such digitised material. The event will also show how the visually-challenged people have gained access to all the digitised books and other material.

Members of the initiative have been digitising knowledge in India, starting with the Indian Academy of Sciences. Our collection includes rare books in over 100 languages, including Kannada. Presently, the group is scanning the entire National Law School Library in Bengaluru, at the rate of around 1.2 million pages per month.

The panel discussion will focus on how the scanning, OCR and archiving is done and how the effort fits into Indian copyright law, and how enthusiasts can support the initiative.

Panel members include Carl Malamud, Founder, Public Resource, Lawrence Liang, Dean, Ambedkar University School of Law and Omshivaprakash H.L., Bengaluru based Digital Archivist.

Entry is free. Details can be had from BIC office (98865 99675) (https://bangaloreinternational-centre.org/event/servants-of-knowledge/).

BU relieves several UVCE staff from service

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Despite the State government extending the status quo of the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCEs) academic and administrative arrangement with the Bangalore University (BU), the latter has relieved 77 faculty members and 29 technical staff of UVCE from service.

"UVCE teaching and non-teaching staff have decided to continue their service in the same institution after the government rejected their proposal to opt into Bangalore University. Therefore, Bangalore University has relieved them from service," sources said.

UVCE was a constituent college of Bangalore University since 1964 and it became an autonomous institution on March 25, 2022.

Due to financial crunch and other issues, a total of 69 teaching faculty and few technical staff decided to opt into Bangalore University.

They also submitted a representation to the government along with the staff list and documents for further action on March 9. The staff preferred to opt into BU for their terminal benefits like pension, gratuity, leave encashment, commutation, and National Pension Scheme (NPS) contribution.

However, there is was government engineering college in Bangalore University limits to depute them, due to which the government rejected their proposal.

"The government had said they can be transferred and accommodated to other government engineering colleges," a source said.

The government released ₹35 crore fund to UVCE and extended the status quo of academic and administrative arrangement with the Bangalore University for the next one year in April, after which the teaching and non-teaching staff decided to stay back with UVCE and requested to be relieved from the service.

Jayakara S.M., Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, said: "UVCE was a constituent college of Bangalore University and has been working as an autonomous university since March 2022.

The government has decided to develop it in the Indian Institute of Technology model and provided an adequate fund for the institution.

Therefore, all permanent teaching and non-teaching staff wanted opt to into the same institution and requested to be relieved from our university. After they exit from here, then only will they be eligible to enrol in the Human Resource Management System, and get the salary from the government. So, we relieved them from the service of Bangalore University."

City hosts SG-9 meet to advance standards for TV technology

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The meeting of International Telecommunication Union ITU-T Study Group 9 (SG-9) is being hosted in India for the first time.

The meeting of SG-9 on "Broadband Cable and Television/Audiovisual content transmission and integrated broadband cable networks" is currently being held at the Indian Institute of Science.

This is the first physical meeting of the SG-9 after the pandemic and the event was attended by delegates and representatives from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Congo, Egypt, France, Gambia, Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Syria, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, and other countries. In addition, representatives of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a UN organisation, and many other experts attended the meeting.

ITU, the oldest UN agency, allocates global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strives to improve access to Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) to underserved communities worldwide. The SG-9 at ITU is responsible for telecommunication systems for primary and secondary distribution of audiovisual content.

The Study Group meeting also comprised the ITU Workshop on The Future of Television for South Asia, Arab and Africa Regions, covering regulatory and policy frameworks, emerging and convergent ICT infrastructures and services, as well as user interfaces and human factors.

"At the workshop, while the future technologies of digital broadcasting were discussed, it was also highlighted that many countries are still facing challenges in transitioning from analog to digital broadcasting. I hope that the ITU workshop will serve as a platform for sharing best practices and help bridge the gap," Seizo Oneo, director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) said.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 17		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:38
RISE	03:59	SET 16:39
THURSDAY, MAY. 18		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:38
RISE	04:40	SET 17:33
FRIDAY, MAY. 19		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:39
RISE	05:24	SET 18:28

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	27
Mysuru	35	21
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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ISEC-23406 Registrar

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Registrar (i/c)

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3.59 lakh jobs given to youth in last nine months: Union Minister

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje said the Union Government has given 3.59 lakh jobs to unemployed youth, in various departments and ministries, in the last nine months.

"Since the start of Rozgar Mela (employment fair) in October 2022, the Centre took up the task of filling up the vacancies and generating employment for unemployed youth. The belief is that development is possible if the departments and ministries of the Centre work in full strength to deliver services, and play a crucial part in nation's development," said Ms. Karandlaje, after inaugurating the Rozgar Mela at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) in Mysuru on Tuesday.

She handed over appointment letters to the youth, who have been placed in various Central Government departments. An initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Rozgar Mela is being held in 45 locations, including Mysuru, in India.

Calling upon the new recruits to realise the vision of the Prime Minister, she advised them to work hard with commitment for the country's development. "The PM works 18 hours a day for the nation's development. You can contribute to the nation's development by serving the people, and realizing the Centre's vision of emerging as a superpower," she told the appointees in her address. The Minister advised the recruits to be compassionate while discharging their duties.

Referring to the Rozgar Mela programme, the Minister said meritorious youth are being appointed, and 71,000 youth have been recruited with each one getting appointment letters in the drive held across India. "You have got a Central Government job. Do well and work hard," she told the recruits.

She said Rozgar Melas will continue to recruit educated and meritorious youth. The Centre is also supporting initiatives like start-ups so that they can generate jobs for the youth. Mysuru MP Pratap Simha spoke of how the Mysuru-based AIISH, a premier institute in the field of speech and hearing under the Government of India, is creating job opportunities for its graduates by expanding its outreach centres within and outside Karnataka.

In total, 28 new recruits received appointment letters at the Rozgar Mela.

'Gauri' bags Best Long Documentary Award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Gauri", a documentary based on journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh, directed by Kavitha Lankesh, has won the "Best Long Documentary Award" at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2023.

According to a release, the citation of the award reads: "A brave and uncompromising pulse-taking of the current crisis in Indian politics, focusing on the 2017 political assassination of trailblazing Bengaluru journalist Gauri Lankesh. A "J'accuse" docu-thriller directed and narrated with verve by Gauri's sister, Kavitha Lankesh". The documentary "All That Breathes", which was an Oscar nominee, was also in competition and won the runner-up prize. The documentary film "Gauri" has been commissioned by Free Press Unlimited, Amsterdam. Free Press Unlimited mission stems from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek and impart information and ideas through any media.

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536789/26096834 Fax: 080-25536105

IFTNo. KMF/ENGG/NHMPP-Powder Pkg/01678/2023-24 Date: 17.05.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[Two cover System] [Through e-procurement Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender through e-procurement portal for the works mentioned in the below table. The interested and eligible firms may participate in the tender by logging on to web site www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & also contact Help desk No.-080 23010900 / 23010901 E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Period
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Powder Conveying and Packing at Nandini Hi-Tech Mega Powder Plant (NHMPP), Kanva, Ramanagara on Turnkey basis.	1 Job	4 Lakhs	8 months

1. Tenders may be downloaded from dated 17.05.2023 to 16.06.2023 up to 4-00 PM.
2. Last date for Tender submission on 16.06.2023 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on 19.06.2023 at 11:30 AM.
4. Pre bid meeting will be held on 31.5.2023 at 11:30 am.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on e-procurement portal only.

For KARNATAKA MILK FEDERATION LTD,
Sd/-
Director [Engineering-2]

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)

BESCOM invites tender vide Enquiry No.: BESCOM/GM(CR)/DGM(HTM)/BC-48/2023-24/01 dated 16.05.2023 from eligible bidders for **"Supply, Integration, Warranty & On-site Maintenance of Android OS based Integrated Spot Billing Device (SBD), Connectivity, Software, Thermal paper and allied services for Spot Billing in RAPDRP / IPDS area (Urban Area)".**

The details of the tender and the Bidding documents can be downloaded through the e-Procurement portal from the website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after **20.05.2023**. Aspiring bidders need to register in the e-Procurement portal. Further, Bidders can take assistance with e-procurement help desk 91-8046010000, + 91-8068948777 or e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com for any issue.

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PURCHASE OF NEW AIRCRAFT

The Council intends to purchase DGCA approved one single engine piston training aircraft for its FTO.

The bids must reach to the office of the **CEO by June 17, 2023 up to 3:00 pm.** For detailed advertisement, please visit **www.pamecpatiala.com**

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE/AEE-1/F-35/23-24/388-90 Date: 15.05.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites bid against Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23 SCADANUMERCIAL/EPR-362/CALL-4 **Date: 15.05.2023 for Supplying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 11kV SAS Compatible numerical line panel for 7nos of feeder at 220/66/11kV R/s Dabaspet, TL&SS Nelamangala. ON TOTAL TURNKEY BASIS.** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 32,75,068.00 and** EMD amount: **Rs.32,751.00.** The bid will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the enquiry can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website **https://www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on the hyperlink e-procurement **on or after Date: 17.05.2023, 16.30 Hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Elec.), Transmission (M), Ramanagara Circle, KPTCL, 220/66/11kV, Vrushabavathi Valley Station, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-560026.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL Invites tenders for the following works.

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/23-24/ EPR-01/1164 Date: 16.05.2023

1) Bid enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/23-24/EPR-01/Call-01 Dated: 16.05.2023 for "Supply of 66kV Current Transformers for various substations coming under Transmission(M), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru".

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/ EPR-32(22-23)/1167 Date:16.05.2023

2) Bid against enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/EPR-32/Call-07 Dated: 08.07.2022 for "Strengthening of Earthing in various substations coming under Transmission(M), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru".

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-137/2023-24/1170 Date:16.05.2023

3) Bid against enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/ EE(O)/AEE-1/EPR-48 Call-4 dated 16.05.2023 for Replacement of age old pneumatic type 220kV ABB make Circuit Breaker by 220KV CGL make Circuit Breakers 1No. at 220kV Hoody Receiving Station and 2Nos. at 400kV Hoody Receiving Station, KPTCL, Erection, testing and commissioning of all the equipments required for successful completion of the contract along with dismantling of the existing Breakers pertaining to BMAZ South Circle.

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-137/2023-24/1173 Date:16.05.2023

4) Bid against enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/EPR-56 Call-4 dated 16.05.2023 for Installation, integration & commissioning of additional 04Nos, 11kV MEI Make 31.5kA, 11kV Switchgears panels (SCADA & SAS/DAS Compatible) including supply of C&R panels, control cables and matching materials at Sir.M.V (EDC) GIS Receiving Station pertaining to BMAZ South Circle.

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/ AEE-4/ F- /23-24/1176-78 Date:16.05.2023

5) Bid against enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/2022-23/EPR-59/CALL-3 Dtd: 20.01.2023 for replacement of age old deteriorated 66kV C&R Panels of 66/11kV Power Transformers at 66/11kV Station Rajarajeshawari Nagar Substation in TL&SS Division Subramanyapura pertains to BMAZ South Circle, Bengaluru on Total Turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials/equipment's including supply of 66kV C&R panels and erection (including civil works) of all materials/ equipment's, testing and commissioning.

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/ AEE-4/ F-EPR-57/23-24/1183-84 Date:16.05.2023

6) Bid against enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/ Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/EPR-57/CALL-04 Dtd:02.01.2023 for the work of "Replacement of age old, Pneumatic type 31.5kA, 66kV SF6 breakers by spring mechanism type 40/50kA breakers at 220/66/11kV station, Somanahalli in TL&SS Division, Somanahalli pertains to BMAZ South circle, Bengaluru on Total Turn Key Basis including supply of all matching materials/equipment's including 66kV Breakers and Conductors and erection (including civil works) of all materials/ equipment's, testing and commissioning".

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/ AEE-4/ F-122(27)/22-23/1188-89 Date: 16.05.2023

7) Bid against enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/ Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/EPR-44/CALL-7 Dtd:21.10.2022 for the work of Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 31.5 MVA, 66/11KV, Victory make, Sl. No.4-0012/5 year of manufacture 2009 Lying at 66/11kV Prestige Shanthiniketan Sub-station on total turnkey basis.

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/ AEE-1/ F- /23-24/1200-01 Date:16.05.2023

8) Bid against enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2021-22/EPR-18/CALL-18 Dated 28.12.2021 for the work of replacement of deteriorated tower type DA+0 at 66KV Tower No.71 in the existing 66/11KV DG3-DG4 DC line from existing 66/11KV Manyatha Tech Park S/s., to existing 66/11KV Hoskote S/s near Hirandahali lake limits, Bengaluru Rural.

The bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to www.kptcl.com with hyperlink 'e-Procurement-KPTCL' or to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after **17.05.2023** (for Sl No. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 & 8) and **18.05.2023** (for Sl No. 3 & 4). Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL,Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009, Ph : 22386686-85

ओडिशा पावर ट्रांसमिशन कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
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OPTCL Lifeline of Odisha
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पंजीकृत कार्यालय : जनपथ : भुवनेश्वर-751022, फोन : (0674) 2540051 (ईपीएबीएक्स),
वेबसाइट: www.optcl.co.in, सीआईएन: U4102OR2004SGC007553, ई-मेल :rtc@optcl.co.in

ओपीटीसीएल द्वारा डाइरी सं.– 164/2023 दिनांक 20-04-2023 में
सीईआरसी के समक्ष प्रस्तुत आवेदन

1. ओडिशा पावर ट्रांसमिशन कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, पंजीकृत कार्यालय : जनपथ : भुवनेश्वर–751022, ओडिशा ने सीईआरसी (अंतर–राज्य पारेषण प्रभार और क्षतियों का सहभाजन) विनियमावली, 2010 और उसके संशोधनों के अनुसार पीओसी चार्जेज में समावेशन के लिए याचिका सं. 07/एसएम/2017 में सीईआरसी के आदेश दिनांकित 12–05–2017 के अनुसार प्वाइंट ऑफ कनेक्शन (पीओसी) प्रभारों और क्षतियों के परिकलन में पारेषण आस्तियों के समावेशन हेतु टैरिफ के अनुमोदन हेतु केन्द्रीय विद्युत विनियामक आयोग, नई दिल्ली के समक्ष एक आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया है। 2. पारेषण प्रणाली के लाभार्थी हैं :– क) पावर ग्रिड कार्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (पीजीसीआईएल), ख) झारखंड स्टेट इलेक्शन बोर्ड (जेएसईबी), ग) वेस्ट बंगाल स्टेट इलेक्ट्रीसिटी डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कम्पनी लिमिटेड (डब्ल्यूबीएसईडीसीएल),

3. ट्रांसमिशन सिस्टम की लाइन लम्बाई, बेज की संख्या : 400 kV– 245.47 ckt.km, 220 kV– 56.33 ckt.km, 132 kV– 49.90 ckt.km, 4. परियोजना की अनुमोदित पूंजी लागत (लाख रूपए) : एन/ए, 5. प्राधिकरण, जिसके द्वारा पूंजी लागत अनुमोदित की गई : एन/ए, 6. वाणिज्यिक प्रचालन की अनुसूचित तिथि : एन/ए, 7. वाणिज्यिक प्रचालन की वास्तविक तिथि : 01–04–1999, 8. वाणिज्यिक प्रचालन की तिथि को पूंजी लागत (लाख रूपए) : एन/ए, 9. टैरिफ का विवरण (प्रकाशन केवल आवेदन भाग) : कुल रू. 21,899.33 लाख, वर्ष 2014–19 खण्ड अवधि हेतु

	पूर्व वर्ष (2013–14) हेतु टैरिफ	निर्धारण हेतु याचित वर्ष वार टैरिफ (लाख रूपए)				
		2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
वार्षिक पारेषण प्रभार	एन/ए	3664.59	4085.63	4611.4	4681.68	4856.03

10. टैरिफ के निर्धारण हेतु किए गए आवेदन की एक प्रति ओपीटीसीएल की वेबसाइट (**www.optcl.co.in**) पर उपलब्ध है। 11. आवेदन में दिए गए टैरिफ के निर्धारण हेतु प्रस्तावों के संबंध में सुझाव और आपत्तियां, यदि कोई, लाभार्थी सहित किसी भी व्यक्ति द्वारा सचिव, केन्द्रीय विद्युत विनियामक आयोग, तृतीय एवं चतुर्थ तल, चन्द्रलोक बिल्डिंग, जनपथ, नई दिल्ली को तथा उसकी एक प्रति आवेदक को इस सूचना के प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन के भीतर प्रेषित की जानी चाहिए।

स्थान : भुवनेश्वर
दिनांक : 12-05-2023

स्वाक्षर
वरिष्ठ महाप्रबंधक
विनियमन, टैरिफ एवं वाणिज्यिक

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CAD-595 OIPR-04011/11/0025/2324

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client is intend to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **M/s. MYSTIQUE SPACES PRIVATE LTD**, Represented by its GPA holder **M/s. K.N.S. INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at No.1125/12, 1st Floor, Service Road, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru – 560104. Any person/s asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the owners or objecting to such sale in favour of my client should write to the undersigned within **07 (Seven) days** of the issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regards to the schedule property or any part thereof, after which period my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Residential Site bearing No.116**, measuring East to West:15.00 meter and North to South:9.00 meter, totally measuring 135.00 square meter, formed as per the Layout Plan sanctioned by the Bengaluru International Airport Area Planning Authority (BIAAPA for brevity) vide No.BIAAPA/TP/02/LAO/79/2020-21, dated:16.03.2023, formed in Sy.No.200, situated at Doddacheemanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on:

East by : Road,
west by : Site No.107,
North by : Site No.117,
West by : Site No.115.

H.R. SHREYAS
Advocate (KAR/1755/05)
No.593, 9th Cross, BHCS Layout, Near NPS School, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru-560061.
Cell: 9900627627

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client intends to purchase the land admeasuring 9 acres 10 guntas comprised in several survey numbers of Jogihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, the survey numbers, its respective extents and owners are more fully described in the **Schedule** hereto and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property".** The Schedule Property is individually owned by A.Basavaraju son of H.Anjinappa and A.Chandregowda son of H.Anjinappa.

Any person/s, entity, firm, banks, institution (corporate or otherwise) having any claim/s including any right, title, interest, charge, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, should bring the same to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made, together with supporting documents within 7(Seven) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been unconditionally waived and/or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete any transaction in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the period stipulated above shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE
DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing survey numbers (described below) totally admeasuring 9 acres 10 guntas, all situated Jogihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Acres	Guntas	Schedule
1.	3	0	26	E:Sy.No.4; W:Sy No.21; N:Sy No.2 & Gramatan; S:Sy Nos.9&10.
2.	4/2	0	20	E:Sy No.2; W:Sy No.3; N:Sy No.9; S:Sy Nos.2.
3.	07	1	1	E:Sy No.6; W:Sy Nos.12 & 13; N:Sy No.8; S:Sadahalli Village Boundary.
4.	8/2	1	1	E:Sy No.6; W:Sy No.11; N:Sy No.9; S:Sy No.7.
5.	9/2	0	34	E:Sy No.5; W:Sy No.10; N:Sy Nos.3 & 4; S:Sy No.8.
6.	10	1	4	E:Sy No.9; W:Sy Nos.19 & 21; N:Sy No.21; S:Sy No.11
7.	11	1	5	E:Sy No.8; W:Sy No.18; N:Sy No.10; S:Sy No.12
8.	12	0	27	E:Sy No.7; W:Sy No.15; N:Sy No.11; S:Sy No.28
9.	13/1	0	9	E:Sy No.7; W:Sy No.14; N:Sy No.12; S:Sadahalli Village Border
10.	15/1	0	33	E:Sy No.12; W:Sy No.16; N:Sy No.18; S:Sy No.14.
11.	16/1	0	24	E:Sy No.15; W:Ilthore Village Boundary; N:Sy No.17; S:Ilthore Village Boundary.
12.	18	0	26	E:Sy No.11; W:Sy No.17; N:Sy No.19; S:Sy No.15.
Total Extent		9	10	

Perikal K Arjun (Advocate)
Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, 2nd Floor,
Prestige Sterling Square, State Bank of India Road,
Bangalore – 560001.

Date: 17.05.2023
Place: Bangalore

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Mr. S Ajithkumar (50)
Assistant Engineer (Printing), The Hindu, Mangaluru.
Passed away on 16-05-2023.
Address: Sowparnika, Tailory Road Mulihithlu, Mangaluru-575001
Ph: 9448252546

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SOUMYA D/o. M Veerangouda, Age: 30 Yrs, R/o H.No.1-11-247/2, Lingasugur Road, Near Ganesh Temple, Nijalingappa Colony, Raichur-584101, Karnataka State, hereby state that both the names Matmari Soumya and Soumya belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only vide affidavit dt: 12.05.2023 sworn before Notary M.Virupakshappa, Raichur.

TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to inform that My clients 1). Mahaveer Prasad Jain S/o. Gajmal Jain Late, 2). Naveen Kumar Jain S/o. Mahaveer Prasad Jain, 3). Rajendar Jain S/o. Mahaveer Prasad Jain, all R/o. H.No.32-217/3, Opp: Rajiv Gandhi Park, LB Nagar, Shapur Nagar, IDA Jeedimetla, Quthbullapur, Medchal-Malkajgiri District-500055 cautioning the General Public that one Arihanth Jain S/o. Madhu Jain Presently staying at No.198, 6B Main Road, Hampinagara, Ramco Layout, Bangalore North, Karnataka is the Grandson of Mahaveer Prasad Jain above and my clients reliably learnt that the said Arihanth Jain is involving into several Acts like taking loans while entering into different monitory transactions by pledging, mortgaging properties by taking name of family members including my clients and therefore my clients as a precaution hereby issuing present publication distancing themselves from any such acts entered by said Arihanth Jain with anybody and my clients are no way concerned or responsible for the acts of Arihanth Jain and no person shall be entitled to take steps against my clients in any manner for the acts of Arihanth Jain.

M/S S. RAVINDAR REDDY & ASSOCIATES
504, Near SPG Grand, HT Line Road, KSR SNR Heights, Petbasheerabad, Hyderabad-500055. Mobile: 9490116454

TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to inform that My client Sri. Susheel Kumar Balawat S/o. Chand Mal Ji Balawat R/o. No.198, 6B Main Road, Hampinagara, Ramco Layout, Bangalore North, Karnataka cautioning the General Public that one Arihanth Jain S/o. Madhu Jain, who is staying with my client. That my client reliably learnt that the said Arihanth Jain is involving into several Acts like taking loans by entering into different monitory transactions by pledging, mortgaging properties by taking name of family members including my client and therefore my client as a precaution hereby issuing present publication distancing himself from any such acts entered by said Arihanth Jain with anybody and my client is not way concerned or responsible for the acts of Arihanth Jain and no person shall be entitled to take steps against my client in any manner for the acts of Arihanth Jain.

M/S S. RAVINDAR REDDY & ASSOCIATES
504, Near SPG Grand, HT Line Road, KSR SNR Heights, Petbasheerabad, Hyderabad-500055. Mobile: 9490116454

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHRUTHI R, W/o Karthik Malli, R/a C-604, Perody Classic Vijaya Bank Lyt, 80 Feet Road BDA, Arakere B'lore South, B'luru-560076 have changed my name to Babitha Karthik Malli vide affidavit dt: 06.05.2023 sworn before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, B'lore.

I, AKSHAY Venkatesh Arni Madhavachar, S/o Madhavachar Arni Raghavendrachar, R/at Flat No.225, 2nd Floor, B-5 Wing, Tungabhadra Block, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bangalore-560047, have changed my name from Akshay Venkatesh Arni Madhavachar to Akshay Arni vide affidavit dated 17-05-2023 before Notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, MEGHA Sreenath, R/o No.9, New High School Road, Next to Suraj Park View Apartment, V V Puram, Bangalore-560004, have changed my name from Megha Sreenath to Megha Makam Kishan vide affidavit dated 16-05-2023 before Notary B.R.Shashikala, Bengaluru.

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

The day of the apprentice

A multi-city report reveals that during financial year 2022 various industries in India had been generous with their stipend payouts

Not long ago, stipends could be equated with pocket money. The tide seems to be turning for apprentices now – the 'Stipend Primer Report' for financial year 2022 by TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship, a degree apprenticeship programme from the house of TeamLease Services, indicates a growing positive synergy amongst Indian companies to pay higher stipends than the mandated minimum notified stipends.

The report highlights a significant variation in stipend payouts across industries, cities and educational qualifications.

In fact, stipend payouts in certain sectors have gained better traction than salary trends over the past year, says the report.

The list of industries

A majority of industries surveyed have indicated promising stipends for apprentices. In the manufacturing sector, six out of 10 industries provided a higher stipend in 2022 as compared to 2021.

Agriculture and Agrochemicals, with current stipend of ₹ 14,000, witnessed a 12% growth. Similarly, Apparel and Textiles (22%), FMCG (8%), Handicrafts and Jewellery (6%), and Infrastructure and Capital Goods (5%) also witnessed an increase in the payouts.

On the other hand, industries like Power and Energy (-10%) and Healthcare (-7%) saw a decline.

In the services sector, 11 out of 13 industries provided a higher stipend during the fiscal.

The top industries included Media and Entertainment (18%), Services including Repair and Maintenance (11%), Education (9%), Life Science (8%) and E-commerce and Tech Products (8%). However, despite the technology boom and the advent of 5G, Telecommunication (-4%) and IT/ITeS (-2%) saw a dip during the fiscal.

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK PHOTO. A REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE.

Top cities

The report also says that nine out of 14 cities experienced an increase in stipends in FY-2022 compared to FY-2021.

The top-paying cities in FY-2022 were Chennai (₹ 13,100 per month) and Kochi (₹ 13,000 per month), followed by Bengaluru and Coimbatore, both offering ₹ 12,900 per month.

Additionally, Nagpur and Lucknow saw a 9% increase in stipends, while Chandigarh had a 6% increase, and Delhi and Hyderabad each had a 5% increase in stipend.

Educational qualification also impacted the stipend. Diploma and Trade (Regular) apprenticeships earned around 50% above minimum stipends and Trade (degree) apprenticeships earned about 40% above minimum stipends. Premium stipends paid to diploma holders are 30% to 50% higher than the average stipends in nearly 6 out of 14 cities.

Similarly, graduates enjoyed premium stipends that were 55% to 75% higher in 5 out of 14 cities.

Postgraduates, specifically in Chennai, Hyderabad, Indore, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Delhi received premium stipends that were 50% to 80% higher than the average stipends.

> ***The top-paying cities in FY-2022 were Chennai and Kochi, followed by Bengaluru and Coimbatore***

In terms of job roles, Agriculture Field Officer was topping the chart with ₹15,200 per month, followed by Retail Sales (₹13,800 per month) and HR (₹ 13,600 per month).

In a press release, Sumit Kumar, Chief Business Officer, TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship, said: "This upward trend signifies a growing recognition among companies of the immense value and return on investment that come with engaging apprentices in their organisations.

Employers are willing to pay higher stipends than industry mandates as they see the value of investing in apprentices to bridge the skill crisis and create a sustainable talent supply chain."

The Stipend Primer Report FY-2022 covered 14 hub cities across 24 industries, and the total number of unique employers covered in the report are 553, added the report.

OVERSEAS

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G20
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General Administration Department

No:GAD-EST10ESTC(EST)/8/2023-GADSrDS (4389)/D. Date:17.05.2023

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13	Manager (Observability and Monitoring Specialist)	03
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15	Manager (Integration Lead)	01
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For all other details such as eligibility criteria, reservation of vacancies, scheme of selection, submission of on-line application and other instructions, please refer to the detailed advertisement to be published on the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in) on **May 29, 2023** and in the Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar issue dated **May 27, 2023 / Subsequent issue**. Candidates can apply for these posts only by online mode through the Bank's website.

(Hindi version of this advertisement will be available in Navbharat Times, Dainik Bhaskar & Dainik Jagran)

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Advertisement No. 88/2023

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REGISTRAR

BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Sandesh Javali, Shivamogga Rangayana director, resigns

Sandesh Javali *(in picture)* has resigned as director of Rangayana in Shivamogga. He was appointed director of the theatre repertory in 2019. He took charge as director on January 3, 2020. Rangayana, a State-run institution, is a professional theatre repertory, a national-level theatre training institute, and a documentation centre for the theatre arts. Speaking to mediapersons in Shivamogga on Tuesday, Mr. Javali said he was happy with the work he could do as the director.

This resignation comes a day after Addanda Cariappa resigned as director of Rangayana, Mysuru.

Final chance to modify the CET-2023 application details

The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has facilitated the last opportunity for candidates to edit the CET-2023 application submitted online from 6 p.m. on May 21 to 11.59 p.m. on May 24. Ramya, executive director for KEA, stated on Tuesday that this will be the final chance to make changes before publishing the CET-2023 results. For more details, candidates can visit the KEA website http://kea.kar.nic.in

KIOCL Limited: Ganti Venkat Kiran assumes charge

Ganti Venkat Kiran has assumed charge as Director (Production and Projects) at KIOCL Limited recently. Mr. Kiran, a graduate in Mechanical Engineering from National Institute of Technology, Bhopal. previously worked with Pro Minerals Pvt. Ltd. (Aditya Birla Group), Essar Steel Ltd. (presently ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India), and BPRL (Stemcor Group), Odisha. Mr. Kiran joined KIOCL Limited in 2019 as General Manager (Projects and Technical Services) and later promoted as Chief General Manager (Projects). He has over 33 years of experience in the steel sector and has worked in construction of pellet plants and has experience in operations and maintenance of Pellet Plant and Benefication Plant, according to a release from KIOCL Limited.

Striking a balance between castes and regions to be a daunting task for Congress

Seers and leaders of different communities have begun exerting pressure on the party high command

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Congress leader Siddaramaiah leaves the residence of party president Mallikarjun Kharge after a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

While the tussle continued on Tuesday between former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar for the top post with both reaching Delhi, different communities have begun demanding that the party high command appoint their leaders/MLAs for the post of the Chief Minister and also be given plum portfolios.

With the Congress bagging more than 42.91% of votes and 135 Assembly seats following widespread support of Veerashaiva-Lingayat, Vokkaliga, Kuruba, Idiga, Dalit, Muslim, and other communities and from across most regions, striking a balance in the power-sharing process will remain a major challenge for the party. Seers and leaders of different communities have already begun exerting pressure on the Congress high command.

In view of next year's Parliamentary polls, the Congress will be under pressure to give adequate representation to dominant communities such as Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayat, who have many MLAs, while not offending other communities, given that it was the support of a broad rainbow social coalition that voted it to power.

Mahasabha's demand

All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha led by 92-year-old Shamanur Shivashankarappa, MLA, on Tuesday wrote to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and demanded appointment of a community leader for the top job. Out of 46 seats given to the community, 34 candidates are elected as MLAs, with a success rate of 74%.

Further, Mr. Shivashankarappa claimed that the community has played a major role in electing candidates belonging to other smaller communities in 50 constituencies. "This shows that the traditional voters of the BJP have shifted their loyalty to the Congress thereby supporting the party to win 135 seats in the State," he said.

"Keeping in view next year's Lok Sabha elections, we strongly feel that we have to retain the support of the community with the Congress to ensure maximum number of MPs in the State," Mr. Shivashankarappa argued

Meanwhile, former Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara said he was ready to take up the responsibility if the party high command asked him to head the government. Mr. Parameshwara, a Dalit, has been the State party chief for more than eight years.

Besides the posts of Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, different communities began intense lobbying demanding allocation of more Ministerial posts in the yet-to-be-formed Congress government.

The seer of Arya Idiga Mahasamsthana demanded allocation of five ministerial berths to the community legislators and mentioned the names of B.K. Hariprasad, H.R. Gaviappa, Harish Kumar, Madhu Bangarappa, Belur Gopalakrishna, and Bheemanna Naik. Besides the Deputy Chief Minister's post, Muslim leaders have been demanding at least five Cabinet berths.

Also, as many senior and young leaders have been elected, the party is expected to face a daunting task in allocation of Cabinet berths on this count too. Many MLAs, who never had an opportunity to be in the ministry despite being elected two to three times, would be disappointed if more seniors are accommodated, while juniors are also vying for a chance.

For those who will miss

The party may also explore options of drafting some senior leaders, who will miss the ministerial bus, into prominent roles in building the party organisation ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election. In all likelihood, this would be a part of the exercise to balance the caste equation as there are too many aspirants from many communities.

A candidate from the Lingayat community may be appointed as the KPCC president, if Mr. Shivakumar is appointed as the Chief Minister, said party sources.

Congress turning State into 'Goonda Raj': Kateel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking exception to the alleged post-poll attack on BJP workers in Hoskote, party State president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Tuesday said that the Congress, which won the Assembly polls, was "turning Karnataka into a Goonda Raj."

Speaking to media persons after visiting the house of BJP worker Krishnappa, who was killed, Mr. Kateel alleged that the Congress was instigating violence after winning the polls.

'Family assaulted'

He alleged that the Congress workers had killed Krishnappa of Shettihalli because he opposed bursting of crackers near his house by those indulging in victory celebrations. Apart from killing him, they had also assaulted his wife and son, he alleged.

Mr. Kateel warned that the BJP would take up a fight throughout the State against such acts if recur. "We are not afraid of such revengeful episodes. We have faced such situations earlier too and we will face them now too," he said.

Seeks compensation

He demanded that compensation should be provided to the victims of post-poll violence.

Former Ministers K.S. Eshwarappa, C.N. Ashwath Narayan, and N. Nagaraju (MTB), and MLC Keshavprasad were present during the visit.

Deve Gowda will contest Lok Sabha polls in 2024, says Revanna

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) MLA H.D. Revanna has said that his father and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda will contest again for the Lok Sabha next year.

Speaking to presspersons in Hassan on Tuesday, Mr. Revanna said: "Mr. Deve Gowda will be active for another seven-eight years. We will get him elected again to the Lok Sabha. The constituency will be decided later."

He also made it clear that his son, Prajwal Revanna, would contest again for Hassan Lok Sabha seat.

Past performance

Mr. Deve Gowda contested for the Tumakuru Lok Sabha seat in 2019 and lost, while Mr. Prajwal won the Hassan seat.

Later, Mr. Deve Gowda was elected to the Rajya Sabha. He completes 90 years this month.

Mr. Revanna, further, thanked the people of Hassan for electing four MLAs from the Janata Dal (Secular). "We lost Sakleshpur by a thin margin because of our mistakes. We will not lose confidence, but continue to work towards strengthening the party," he said.

In 1989

Recalling the party's poor performance in 1989, Mr. Revanna said then the party had lost all eight seats in Hassan district in the Assembly polls. However, the party succeeded in winning Hassan in the 1991 parliamentary election, he added.

Next phase

Rooms being vacated at the Vidhana Soudha, which wore a deserted look, with the Congress yet to decide on the Chief Minister, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

BJP gets set for organisational rejig, appointment of new party president

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which lost the recently held elections to Karnataka Assembly by a huge margin, is not only set to appoint the Leader of the Opposition, but is also getting ready to initiate the process of an organisational rejig.

The organisational rejig has been pending since August 2022, when incumbent State president Nalin Kumar Kateel completed his term of three years. However, the party had decided to continue with him as not much time was left for the Assembly elections then. The party leaders were of the view that it would not be possible for any new president and his team of office-bearers to establish grip over the organisation within a short duration. Hence, he continued in the post.

Now, after the polls, the party is set to appoint a new president and a new team of office-bearers. This process has assumed more importance now as the new president will have the daunting task of instilling confidence among party workers and boosting their morale, besides making the organisation battle ready to face the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

Sources in the party say that the new State president would be appointed soon. However, the immediate task for the party is to appoint the Leader of the Opposition.

According to a BJP State leader, the party is trying to strike a balance in terms of communities and region with respect to appointment of the Leader of the Opposition. The party is concerned that its main support base of Lingayat community has eroded this time as its candidates in the Lingayat dominated areas have lost. At the same time, it has managed to increase its vote share in Greater Bengaluru area and southern Karnataka though its vote share dwindled in its strong holds of northern and central regions.

Following this, the party wants to not only woo back the Lingayat community, but also retain its gains in the Greater Bengaluru and southern region. It is also keen to bounce back in its prominent support area of the coastal region. Hence, the party is thinking of choosing its Leader of the Opposition from among the Lingayats, Vokkaligas, and OBC from the coastal region, sources pointed out.

This can be interpreted as choosing among outgoing Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Vokkaliga legislator from Bengaluru Arvind Bellad, and former Minister V. Sunil Kumar from the coastal region.

Linked moves

There is a link between the appointment of Leader of the Opposition and the State president, said a BJP State leader, while explaining that the State president will have to be from a community other than that of the Leader of the Opposition.

Though the party is yet to begin even the primary process of appointment of the State president, speculations are rife that the names that would be considered for this post include Union Ministers Shobha Karandlaje and Bagwanth Khuba besides party national general secretary C.T. Ravi, who lost the Assembly polls.

Meanwhile, the party is yet to formally take up the process of introspection meetings regarding the poll debacle.

'Coming together of DSS factions helped consolidate SC communities'

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

> Circumstances brought the factions together to defeat communal forces and protect Constitution and democracy.
>
> **MAVALLI SHANKAR**
> Dalit leader

An impressive performance by the Congress in winning over half of the seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and support by the community in general constituencies across the State is being seen through the perspective of various Dalit factions coming together for the first time in over three decades.

Though elevation of Mallikarjun Kharge as the Congress president is being speculated in the political narrative as one of the reasons for consolidation of Dalit votes, there have been several months of background efforts in bringing together the factions to work closely, which started in July last year.

Focused campaign

"We went with a specific agenda to convince the Dalit voters not to vote for the BJP or the Janata Dal (Secular). The community was feeling insecure after several cultural and legal challenges that were thrown at by the BJP government," said Indudhar Honnapura, coordinator of a 14-member committee called the Dalitha Sangharasha Samithigala Aikya Horata Chalana Samiti. He said: "As many as 132 constituencies, including 51 reserved constituencies, were identified and our efforts were focussed on these constituencies. Barring eight constituencies, the Congress has won in 124 that we worked on."

Of the 36 seats reserved for the SCs in Karnataka, the Congress returned with 21 seats, a gain of nine seats since the 2018 elections. On the other hand, the BJP that had 16 seats is now down to 12 seats. The JD(S) that had won six seats in 2018 ended up with three seats. In 15 constituencies reserved for Scheduled Tribes, the BJP drew a blank with the Congress and the JD(S) winning 14 seats and one seat, respectively.

The Dalit factions and splinter groups have been divided over personal issues, and ideological differences after the rise of the BSP in the recent decades. The community is seen as being divided in its political support to the Congress and the BJP from Dalit right group (Holeyas) and Dalit left groups (Madigas), respectively.

The Congress's performance comes despite efforts by the BJP government to increase reservation for SCs and STs and announcing internal reservation to woo these communities.

The effort to bring the factions together started with the 'Dalithara Samskruthika Prathirodha' on December 6, 2022. For the first time since 1992, the rally brought over 10 Dalit factions and many other splinter groups in Bengaluru to lay ground for the Dalit voters to come together.

"The rally attracted more than expected crowd. We followed it up with house-to-house visits across the State," he said. "The coming together of various factions brought positive undercurrents in the community. The development made them think that their Constitutionally-provided rights and facilities are being threatened."

Activists from the panchayat level were brought in for workshops and they were trained to work for elections, besides creating awareness among the voters.

Mavalli Shankar, one of the leaders behind the unity effort, said that circumstances brought the factions together to defeat communal forces and protect Constitution and democracy. "It was a more than six months effort. We were discussing the unity factor for more than two years. The December 6 rally was to register cultural resistance."

Several other small voluntary groups and associations were also involved in similar efforts, including some former government officials.

SC transfers endosulfan case to Kerala HC

Supreme Court says with the compensation paid, the only factor left is the provision of medical and palliative care for the victims; the High Court will be in a better position to monitor that aspect; judges ask the Kerala Chief Justice to list the case before his Bench or assign any other Bench

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday transferred to Kerala High Court the responsibility of monitoring the measures taken by the State to provide medical and palliative care for victims of endosulfan contamination.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the State has complied with the disbursement of compensation to victims. Senior advocate Jaideep Gupta and advocate Nishe Rajen Shonker, for Kerala, said the ₹5 lakh compensation has reached almost all of the over 3,700 victims.

The Bench said it has been passing orders from time to time while monitoring the case. Now, with the compensation paid, the only factor left was regarding the provision of medical and palliative care to the victims. The Supreme Court said the High Court was in a "better position" to monitor that aspect.

The court transferred the case to the High Court. It requested the Kerala Chief Justice to list the case before his Bench or assign any other Bench.

Mothers of endosulfan victims with their children staging a protest in Thiruvananthapuram. FILE PHOTO

On August 18 last year, the top court had directed the Kasaragod District Legal Services Authority to inspect the medical and palliative care facilities provided to endosulfan victims. The order had come after victims, represented by senior advocate P.N. Raveendran and advocate Sudheer, complained of the lack of health care infrastructure provided by the State despite the best efforts of the district administration.

In May last year, the Supreme Court had slammed the Kerala government for doing "virtually nothing" for Endosulfan pesticide exposure victims.

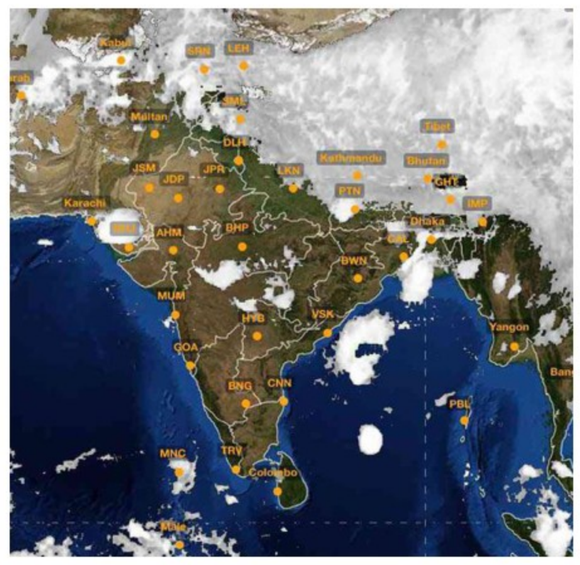
The court had said the State's inaction was "appalling" and amounted to a breach of the Supreme Court's judgment in 2017, which had ordered the State to pay ₹5 lakh each to the victims in three months.

Of the victims, 102 are bedridden, 326 are mentally challenged, 201 are physically disabled, and 119 are wrecked by cancer while 2,966 others fall in the residual category.

"The right to health is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Without health, the faculties of living have little meaning," the court had noted in the case.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.5	24.6	Kozhikode	—	36.8	28.0
Ahmedabad	—	41.2	28.7	Kurnool	—	40.9	28.3
Aizawl	—	34.6	20.0	Lucknow	—	40.2	25.0
Allahabad	—	43.6	24.0	Madurai	—	40.8	26.7
Bengaluru	—	35.0	23.0	Mangaluru	—	34.9	25.3
Bhopal	—	—	27.6	Mumbai	—	34.4	28.6
Bhubaneswar	—	38.6	28.8	Mysuru	—	36.3	21.6
Chandigarh	—	41.2	24.2	New Delhi	—	39.9	27.4
Chennai	—	42.7	29.4	Patna	—	40.5	26.1
Coimbatore	—	37.0	25.2	Port Blair	—	32.6	26.8
Dehradun	—	38.4	20.2	Puducherry	—	41.2	28.8
Gangtok	15	18.1	13.7	Pune	—	37.6	23.0
Goa	—	36.0	26.4	Raipur	—	42.2	28.5
Guwahati	10	31.8	19.6	Ranchi	—	40.3	24.2
Hubballi	—	39.0	22.0	Shillong	8	25.6	12.5
Hyderabad	—	39.1	26.5	Shimla	—	26.6	14.6
Imphal	18	30.4	18.7	Srinagar	—	26.6	10.7
Jaipur	—	39.2	25.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.8	27.1
Kochi	—	33.0	27.8	Tiruchi	—	40.3	29.5
Kohima	2	17.4	13.3	Vijayawada	—	43.4	28.8
Kolkata	15.7	36.5	22.1	Visakhapatnam	—	36.4	30.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	1	15	216	266	
Bengaluru	26	11	100	88	94	
Chennai	2	57	86	94	82	
Delhi	28	106	85	223	329	
Hyderabad	53	69	71	83	130	
Kolkata	16	16	20	56	80	
Lucknow	10	27	37	260	226	
Mumbai	73	25	54	22	69	
Pune	118	174	115	123	85	
Visakhapatnam	18	42	25	91	150	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 318 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Five more deaths take spurious liquor toll to 22

The Hindu Bureau
VILLUPURAM

The toll in the twin spurious liquor tragedy rose to 22 on Tuesday, with the death of two more victims from Marakkanam in Villupuram district and three more victims from Madurantakam in Chengalpattu district.

In Marakkanam, the toll rose to 14 as two victims, who were undergoing treatment at the Government Villupuram Medical College and Hospital, died. The deceased were identified as Abraham, 48, of Ekkiyarkuppam, and Saravanan, 55, of Kovadi near Tindivanam.

As for the Madurantakam incident, the toll rose to eight with the death of three more patients who were undergoing treatment at Chengalpattu Government Hospital.

A senior police official in Chengalpattu district said the victims who died on Tuesday were identified as Shankar, 47, Muthu, 48, and a woman named Jumbo, 55. Anjali, 22, the wife of another victim, Chinnathambi, 34, is undergoing treatment, while Raju, of Puthur village, is absconding.

Till Monday, a total of five people had died after consuming spurious liquor in Perunkaranai village, falling under the Siddhamoor police station limits. The victims, including Chinnathambi and his mother-in-law Vasantha, Mariappan, and a couple, Venniyappan and Chandra, belonged to the Irular community. All the victims had consumed liquor supplied by a person named Amavasai.

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of media reports of people dying after consuming spurious liquor in Villupuram and Chengalpattu districts, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police, seeking a detailed response from them within four weeks.

The NHRC observed that the contents of the media reports, if true, amounted to a violation of the people's right to life. "Apparently, the State government failed to prohibit the sale and consumption of illicit/spurious liquor," it said.

The reports of the Chief Secretary and the DGP should include details like the status of the FIR registered by the police, the medical treatment provided to the victims, and compensation, if any, granted to the aggrieved families.

The commission said it would also like to know about the action taken against the officers responsible for the tragedy.

Earlier in the day, Minister for Higher Education K. Ponmudy and Minister for Minorities' Welfare and Non-resident Tamils' Welfare Gingee K.S. Masthan handed over a solatium of ₹10 lakh each to the families of 13 persons who died after consuming spurious liquor.

No respite as mercury breaches 45° Celsius in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Mercury crossed 45° Celsius on May 16 (Tuesday) at many places, as Andhra Pradesh continued to reel under sweltering heat. For the third consecutive day, the maximum temperature in the State was more than 44° Celsius.

Forty mandals in 12 coastal districts and one mandal in Nandyal district experienced severe heatwave conditions, while 148 mandals in 19 coastal districts and two districts in the Rayalaseema region experienced heatwave conditions.

As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Jangamaheswarapuram of Palnadu district recorded the highest maximum temperature of 45.2° Celsius, while Bapatla registered 45° Celsius.

The temperatures (in degree Celsius) recorded in other places were as follows: Kavali 44.6; Kalavacharla 44.5; Ongole 44.1; Kakinada 43.8; Amaravati 43.5; Garikapadu 43.5; Nandigama 43.5; Gannavaram-Vijayawada 43.4; Narsapur 43.4; Machilipatnam 43.1; Venkataramannagudem 43.1; Nellore 43; Nandyal 43; Tirupati 42.6; Tuni 42.5; Darsi 42.1; Kadapa 41.6; Vizianagaram 41.3; Utkuru 41.1; Kurnool 40.9; Anantapur 40.1; Amadalavalasa 39.5; Banavasi 39; Visakhapantam 38.4; Arogyavaram 37; and Kalingapatnam 35.1.

A.P. and GMR Group conduct land survey at Bhogapuram

K. Srinivasa Rao
VIZIANAGARAM

Officials of the Andhra Pradesh government and the GMR Group have taken up a joint survey of the lands at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district, where construction of an international airport will soon commence. The survey is likely to be completed soon.

The State government has acquired 2,203 acres, but the construction activity will begin only after handing over the land to the GMR Group.

The company has already said that it will construct the airport at an estimated cost of ₹4,592 crore. The group has reportedly approached banks for loans, and is keen on achieving financial closure as early as possible.

Keeping this in view, the company has accorded priority to undertake joint survey of the lands.

Officials of the Airport Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh have also been monitoring the process, as overcoming initial hurdles is necessary for the construction activity to begin.

District Collector S. Nagalakshmi said all the officials were directed to speed up the survey and complete the handing over of the site to the company as soon as possible.

Sunset cruise

The simmering summer heat has resulted in a rise in demand for tourist boats that operate off Marine Drive in Kochi. Most of the boats operate in the backwaters, while a few, including those owned by state-owned KSINC, operate a few kilometres into the sea. THULASI KAKKAT

Ex-Minister murder case: YSRCP MP to be quizzed on May 19

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Y.S. Avinash Reddy

The CBI, which was to question YSRCP MP from Kadapa Y.S. Avinash Reddy in the murder case of his uncle and former Minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, accepted his request for more time and directed him to appear for the questioning on May 19.

Mr. Reddy who already arrived here for the scheduled session, said that he was asked to appear before the CBI on a short notice and that he was engaged in party activities for the next four days.

Following an electronic communication in his favour, Mr. Reddy left Hyderabad for Pulivendula. A team of CBI officials who had already reached Pulivendula, handed over the notice in writing, under Cr. PC S. 160. He was asked to appear before the CBI, Hyderabad, on Friday.

The CBI had arrested Mr. Reddy's father, Bhaskar Reddy, on April 16, in connection with the case.

NIA begins probe into haul of methamphetamine off Kochi

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has initiated a probe into the recent seizure of around 2,500 kg of methamphetamine valued around ₹15,000 crore from the Indian waters off the Kochi coast in a joint operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Indian Navy. It was claimed to be the biggest drug haul by any enforcement agency in the country in terms of monetary value.

Officials of the agency have questioned a man suspected of Pakistan origin, who was detained from the ship that originated from Pakistan.

A Pakistani national who was arrested recently from a boat with methamphetamine. PTI

The NIA has launched a preliminary probe to ascertain whether the proceeds from the sale of the drugs are meant for terror activities in the country. A decision on whether to take over the probe will be taken on the basis of further investigation and questioning of the accused.

The drugs had its origin in Pakistan and was loaded to the mother ship from the Makran coast. Officials seized 134 sacks of suspected methamphetamine. The sacks had Pakistani inscriptions. The drugs, the detained person, and the other items salvaged from the ship were taken to the Mattancherry wharf in Kochi and handed over to the NCB for further action on May 13.

The accused arrested in connection with the drug haul was remanded in judicial custody by the First Class Magistrate Court, Mattancherry, on May 15.

Jagan releases aid of ₹123.52 cr. to families of fishermen in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
NIZAMPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy released ₹123.52 crore under the YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme at a public meeting held at Nizampatnam in Bapatla district on Tuesday.

As a part of the scheme, financial assistance of ₹10,000 is given to each fisherman family for the annual ban period on marine fishing from April 15 to June 14.

The amount was directly credited into the bank accounts of 1,23,519 beneficiaries across the State.

Thousands of fishermen attended the meeting and thanked the Chief Minister for releasing the benefits for the fifth consecutive year.

With the amount released on Tuesday, the total assistance provided under the scheme has gone up to ₹538 crore, said Mr. Reddy.

In addition to that, Mr. Reddy deposited ₹107.91 crore directly into the bank accounts of 23,458 fishermen's families in Konaseema and Kakinada districts, who have lost their livelihood to the pipeline works of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.

Railway stations a thriving platform for artisans

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

In the bustling railway stations of Telangana and amid the rush of daily commuters, local artisans and weavers, once overshadowed by the dominance of retailers, are finding their voices heard and their creations cherished. Thanks to the 'One Station, One Product' scheme initiated by the Indian Railways, a tapestry of opportunity has been woven, connecting the artisans' exquisite handlooms with the hearts of countless passengers.

Iqra Begum of Aarunya Handlooms, a self-help group from Narayanapet, running the stall at the Secunderabad railway station, says, "Lakhs of passengers come to the station daily, and many visit our stall. The sale of handlooms per day is about 3,500, and the number goes up to 5,000 during festive occasions.We are really grateful for this opportunity, which is greatly helpful for our weavers."

Earlier, weavers were totally dependent on retailers, says V. Praveen, a weaver of Chenetha Sahakara Sangam - Handlooms Cooperative Society.

Handloom products by local weavers such as the traditional Narayanpet, Gadwal and Pochampalli saris, millet-based food products, TSCO handlooms, Bhadrachalam bamboo crafts, temple deity idols, forest collections, handicrafts, Nirmal toys, local delicacies etc. form part of the ensemble.

The Gadwal sari is woven in Jogulamba Gadwal district and the weave is so light that the sari can fit in a matchbox.

Narayanpet district is also renowned for its exquisite and unique cotton handloom and silk saris. Over six outlets have been allocated to this variety of sari, said SCR chief PRO, Ch. Rajesh.

Seven railway stations have stalls offering millet-based products.

Tripping trade

India must not excessively rely on a few large markets

This financial year is off to a subdued start on the trade front. Goods exports slumped to $34.6 billion in April, the lowest since last October – the worst month for outbound shipments in 2022-23. This was the third successive contraction in exports, and 12.7% below last April's numbers. Imports shrank by a sharper 14% to trip to a 15-month low of under $50 billion. A slowing global economy had been hurting exports through the second half of 2022-23, with declines in four of six months. But April's initial estimates are troubling not just because they represent the steepest fall in recent months but also signal a sudden shift in sequential momentum akin to the use of emergency handbrakes. This March, despite lingering global demand weakness, exports had hit a nine-month high of nearly $42 billion while imports were $60 billion. The new Foreign Trade Policy enunciated a two trillion-dollar export goal to be achieved in seven years. Its first month of implementation could not have been off to a shakier start. The prospects of last year's healthy 14.7% growth that lifted total exports to about $776 billion being replicated in 2023-24 look bleak already.

One may draw some succour from the trade deficit easing to a 20-month low. But managing the trade deficit cannot be the goal for policymakers. Falling imports also indicate that domestic demand, India's proclaimed insulation against global headwinds, is ebbing. Moreover, when imports of petroleum (down 14%), and gems and jewellery plummet, they also affect exports of value-added end products. Petroleum exports shrank 17.5% in April, while jewellery shipments slipped at 30%, marking the seventh contraction in 10 months even as other job creators such as textiles have been hit hard. That commodity prices have cooled from last year is only one reason for the shrinking trade basket. Officials concede there does not seem to be any immediate respite likely from faltering global demand. China's opening up of the economy may have prompted a global trade growth forecast hike (from 1% to 1.7%) for 2023 from the WTO, but recent Chinese data have been underwhelming about the recovery momentum. Reluctant European and North American markets are only expected to speed up goods orders by September for the festive season, while services exports that have held up through the recent trade turmoil, may slow too. India must use this slack period to review its overall trade stance, the reliance on a few large markets, and pursue greater integration with global value chains and multilateral trading arrangements. These would yield better outcomes than fresh measures to hold down the import bill.

Weaker by the year

Erdoğan may still be in the lead, but the run-off is humbling

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was perhaps at the weakest moment of his two-decade-long reign when an overwhelming majority of Turkish citizens voted in Sunday's presidential and parliamentary elections. Six Opposition parties came together to seize the momentum and fielded a joint candidate, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, a mild-mannered former bureaucrat who promised to arrest Turkey's "slide towards authoritarianism" and fix its economy. Most opinion polls predicted that Mr. Erdoğan was trailing Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu. Yet, in the preliminary results, Mr. Erdoğan won 49.5% of the votes in the presidential election, a tad lower than the threshold that would have avoided a run-off, against Mr. Kılıçdaroğlu's 44.9%. The President's nationalist-conservative coalition also took a comfortable majority in Parliament. Mr. Erdoğan was facing serious criticism, particularly about his mismanagement of the economy. Turkey's lira has lost some 60% of its value against the dollar in just two years. Foreign investors are fleeing and the current account deficit is ballooning. Annual inflation has hit the middle-class. After a devastating earthquake in February, the government's response to the calamity and its building permit rules were slammed. Yet, the Opposition failed to turn these challenges Mr. Erdoğan faced into votes.

Mr. Erdoğan, whose Islamist Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in 2003, has remained a towering figure in Turkey's politics. He rewrote its Constitution, turning its parliamentary system into an executive presidency, and got himself elected as the first President under the new Constitution. He used the failed 2016 coup to purge his rivals and tame the generals. He moved Turkey away from the western orbit and began building stronger ties with Russia and Arab countries, while retaining its NATO membership. His promise was to turn Turkey, once the core of the Ottoman Empire, into a major global power again. He presented himself as an outsider who revolted against the Kemalist establishment, and built a new order rooted in Islamist conservatism, public welfare and an Ottoman imperial nostalgia. Sunday's election results show that this revivalist brand of politics still remains powerful. But that is not the whole story. The results also suggest that there are cracks in his base. In 2018, he won the presidential election in the first round with a 22-percentage point lead over his closest rival. This time, he was not just forced to go into a run-off, but the gap is just five points. Public resentment towards his policies was particularly high in and around Ankara and Istanbul. A directionless Opposition finally seems united and potent. Mr. Erdoğan may still be in the lead, but he has been humbled by Turkey's voters.

The rising tide of dictatorship

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." – George Santayana

The great tragedy of our times is the failure to come to grips with the decline of democracy and its failure to accept the new age of autocracy and its democratising of violence. In the context of the present decline in the very idea of democracy, there is a need to reflect on the changing political dynamics in a post-industrial age. In particular, the genealogy of fascism as experienced in the traditional forms of dictatorship and the evolution towards the contemporary notions of the brute power of the state not only overtly refute or sneer at democracy, but rather go to great lengths to deceitfully annex democratic practices.

The revelation about the evil capabilities of the human race were shown in the post-Holocaust era. As Hannah Arendt points out in her book, *Origins of Totalitarianism*, "We can no longer afford to take that which is good in the past and simply call it our heritage, to discard the bad and simply think of it as a dead load which by itself time will bury in oblivion. The subterranean stream of Western history has finally come to the surface and usurped the dream of our tradition." This is abundantly obvious from the wreckage of the two wars and the rise of fascism scarring the deep-seated liberal philosophy prevailing in Europe. Humanity's capability for evil casts a murky shadow on our vision of history where the triumph of democracy always seemed inevitable.

Shelley Walia

has taught cultural theory at the Panjab University

An era of strident nationalism

It is 'not true that humanity cannot learn from history. It can and, in the case of the lessons of the dark period between 1914 and 1945, the West did. But it seems to have forgotten those lessons. We are living, once again, in an era of strident nationalism and xenophobia. The hopes of a brave new world of progress, harmony and democracy, raised by the market opening of the 1980s and the collapse of Soviet communism between 1989 and 1991, have turned into ashes'.

It is a common fact of history that it often repeats itself, especially when people forget that war or dictatorship or ethnic belligerence are not a solution to any conflict. Revolutions, like those in France and Russia, that gave an individual absolute power, as in the case of Napoleon and Stalin, respectively, inevitably nosedive as failed empires under brutal dictatorships. Similarly, widespread corruption, high crime rates, governmental incompetence, and the rule of law fail to awaken humanity to the realisation that such conditions are a harbinger of the imperceptible rise of "strong man" politics.

> The primary concern at the moment must be this: to come to grips with the idea that either we face the end of a free world, or put all our hope in our democratic impulse to overcome the rising tide of tyranny

Similarly, dictatorships accompanied by violence and death are forgotten by the public which blindly begin to put faith in a leadership that projects competence and ability to advance welfare of the people and the country through camouflaging violence only to evoke affection and respect from the masses. It is a clear fact of history that societies learn nothing from the tyranny that a nation bears. After Stalin's brutal regime of secret police and leader worship, Cuban revolutionaries allowed their charismatic revolutionary leader to seize absolute power, disallowing any political opposition. Suppression of information to this day is widespread, and independent journalism is prohibited in Cuba.

It stands to conclusion then that humanity still has not learnt from the brutal regimes that brought violence and bloodshed in their wake, giving way to newer forms of tyranny. Lessons from history fade away and nations continue to repeat their slip-ups.

To fully comprehend the history of dictatorship, one has to examine the various shades and tones in which they surfaced from time to time. Though the idea of authoritarian power remains eternal in man's ambition, the complexion may change while the hubris of power remains. To understand the changing face of despotism, *Spin Dictators*, by Sergei Guriev and Daniel Treisman, elaborates through serious research on the abuse of modern communication technology by authoritarian regimes for propaganda, giving birth to manipulative and not bloody dictatorships of the past. Understandably, the use of brute force in the past gives way to the use of technological means to subjugate public opinion. Hitler and Stalin are replaced by Russia's Putin, Peru's Fujimore, Venezuela's Chavez, Hungary's Orbán and Turkey's Erdoğan.

A subservient media

Over the last few decades, violence has reduced substantially as a weapon for retaining power. Advancement in technology is strategically employed to manipulate and govern public opinion through deceit, lies, and deceptions under the smokescreen of safeguarding the institution of democracy.

In exchange of reliability and acceptance, "non-democratic leaders" allow a certain amount of dissent in the independent media; outright censorship is replaced by indiscriminate regulations and law suits; elections are made to look fair and honest, through money, manipulation and the creation of a cult leadership that go all out to create a mass appeal. Mass incarceration or extermination has gradually morphed into majoritarian brute force, supported and propped by a subservient media that tactfully spins a public discourse which, at its face, seems to be democratic but in reality is far right wing in its sociopolitical barrage of the public. This is apparently different from North Korea's Kim Jong-Un, Syria's Bashar al-Assad, or Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman, who openly use subjugation, expurgation and physical punishment to remain in power.

Vladimir Putin, for example, has given up the charade of posing as a democratic leader. The Ukraine war has let the cat out of the bag. Public opinion now has turned substantially antagonistic. Vladimir Putin, therefore, no longer falls into the category of non-violent dictators of the present. Guriev, writing in the *Financial Times* in April, has revised his appraisal of Vladimir Putin's place in the diversity of autocrats and despots: "Putin's regime has completed its reversion from a 21st-century spin dictatorship to a 20th-century dictatorship based on fear." As in the detention and extermination of his political opponent Alexei Navalny, Vladimir Putin's dexterous manipulation gave way to brute force.

Doublespeak and censorship

Right-wing intellectuals indeed, continually endeavour to strengthen the discourse of nationalism through the politics of image building and exceptionalism which captures the attention of the gullible masses. The triumphalism of the supporters of democracy now seems to be a distant cry, giving place to an outright authoritarianism that stands out as the single-most defining feature of global politics. Criticism is conveniently pushed to the fringes while the dominant party discourse remains in full force, incessantly brain-washing the public with doublespeak and "sensible censoring" through sophisticated means of surveillance and propaganda. A channel supposedly airing free debate is merely eyewash for showcasing a certain amount of democratic inclinations of the despotic leadership through a superficially credible appearance of democratic adherence in all policy making.

The *zeitgeist* of the post-Holocaust brutality that looked with hope at the world of justice and freedom awaiting humanity has fallen by the wayside. Our primary concern at the moment must, therefore, be to come to grips with the idea that either we face the end of a free world or put all our hope in the undying forces of democratic impulse in humanity to finally overcome the rising tide of tyranny.

Rajasthan's move spells some hope for gig workers

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan announced earlier this year that the State would set up India's first welfare fund called the Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund. This is the first real instance of a regulatory move to unburden gig and platform workers' vulnerabilities since the Code on Social Security was passed in 2020. The code came amid the COVID-19 pandemic when platform workers became the backbone of metropolitan logistics, acting to serve customers, and working with and for State governments in their food relief schemes.

Many States are yet to act

In 2023, many State governments are yet to pass rules that govern how they will implement the Code on Social Security. This has raised concerns over how fast gig and platform workers can gain benefits in a scenario where they are seen as "independent contractors", though they are made to follow rules that constitute an employment relationship. Rajasthan stands out as a first mover making haste, with the State facing Assembly elections next year.

Since Independence, construction workers, dock workers, and head loaders (*mathadi*) have had boards set up for their well-being. Thus, the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers Welfare Board will be a familiar institution that can be used to serve the needs of a technology-mediated workforce. The board, a tripartite institution with representatives from bureaucracy, employers or clients, and workers' unions or associations, exists as a workaround to what is otherwise embedded in formal employment. In the latter, an employment contract and contributory worker benefits bring together worker, state and employer in conversation with each other. This relationship is meant to ensure quick communication in moments of failure where workers or employers do not get their due, and enable better communication between the parties. In sectors that have more informal workers, there is no 'straightforward' way to deliver benefits since on-paper employment relationships are missing. Therefore, the state also does not 'find' workers at work to give them benefits. The tripartite relationship has to be built to force employers to acknowledge that they have informal workers; for workers to collectivise to bring a common voice to their concerns; and for the state to liaise and mediate this relationship.

Aditi Surie

is a senior researcher with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, examining platform capitalism, livelihoods and economic progress for communities on technology-mediated markets

> The initiation of a board is a win for platform workers, but there are many challenges ahead such as covering the gaps in labour rights

Tied down in the specifics

The Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers Welfare Board aims to deliver social security benefits to between three to four lakh workers in the State but is tied down in what kind of schemes and programmes it can set up. The Code on Social Security gives State labour ministries the mandate of choosing from a narrow bouquet of programmes on provident fund, employment injury benefit, housing, educational schemes for children of workers, skill upgrading and funeral assistance. Key protection schemes such as life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and education will only be started and funded by the central government, which can decide which States will get these central schemes, their duration and what kind of gig and platform worker will be eligible for schemes and programmes. This restriction could be further exacerbated by a lack or shortage of funding.

To address this, the code mandates platforms to share 1%-2% of their revenue for these new schemes, answering a key question for central and State governments as to who pays for gig and platform worker protections. The Construction Worker Board uses a similar avenue to take money that amounts to 1%-2% of the project cost from real estate companies and builders for worker well-being. While charging construction projects on revenue is a simple way to fund a board, it will not be as simple to do so in the platform economy context. Many platform companies operate as revenue-negative or have to raise debt or equity funding to make it year to year. Questions about how the Rajasthan government made the financial allocation of ₹200 crore, where this has come from, or how platforms will be charged with their financial responsibility remain unanswered.

The challenge ahead

Worker boards in India have been thought of as a way to build long-term relationships between workers and the state apart from their more operational role in creating a tripartite forum and implementing schemes. There has been a lot of criticism against the construction board – that it does not provide benefits that are useful enough to offset the time, money and other resources workers have to spend in order to register and access benefits. Time will tell how a Gig and Platform Worker Board will fare when gig and platform workers are time-poor considering that they often work for piece-meal wages that are structured through hourly or daily time commitments to platforms. This has been a significant challenge for collectivisation attempts. It is also unclear whether Rajasthan or any other State board will be able to fill the gap in labour rights for platform and gig workers. The Code on Social Security does not consider how to handle the labour rights of gig and platform workers; rather, it only seeks to give them protections from vulnerable aspects of their work.

Nonetheless, the initiation of the board is a big win for platform workers and unions who/which have been fighting to get their issues heard. The fact that the board is being set up before 2024 stands out in the midst of political chatter that States will not implement the new Codes until after the general election in 2024.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is the truth?

Though *sub judice*, the matter of the Adani Group versus the Hindenburg research report only seems to be getting curiouser and murkier (Page 1, May 16). It is only the top court of the land that can now clear the mess and ensure that there is a reasonable verdict.

K. Nehru Patnaik,
Visakhapatnam

Different versions of the 'truth' and a silence on most critical issues of national importance are the trademarks of the regime at the Centre. Hence, it is not surprising to see two versions of the 'truth' floating around in connection with investigations into the matters of the Adani Group. It will be interesting to know exactly why two versions of the 'truth' are provided in different places and contexts. And more, importantly, to identify what the absolute truth is in this matter.

A. Venkatasubramanian
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Suspense in Karnataka

The continuing stalemate over the announcement of a chief ministerial candidate for Karnataka is unacceptable. A resounding victory now looks as if it had happened in a very distant past. It is belittling the mandate of the people who have voted the Congress to power with immense faith. If at all the elected representatives had indicated their preference, the one who had the support of the majority should be the automatic choice. The past practice of those in Delhi deciding the chief ministerial pick up should be dispensed with. A forced choice from Delhi is bound to create ripples in the future, unsettling the functioning of the government. We have seen regional leaders of the party quite vocal in their views, unlike in the past where they played a subservient role to Delhi. The Congress should act decisively and pragmatically soon as any flip flop in Karnataka is bound to dent its prospects in other States where elections are due.

V. Subramanian,
Chennai

Spurious liquor tragedy

The report, of the spurious liquor toll in Tamil Nadu rising to 17 (May 16), is distressing. It is most likely that it was a mixture of methanol and water sold as arrack. As Indian Made Foreign Liquor is expensive, the demand for illicitly distilled arrack is on the rise in the border areas of Puducherry. The government must think in terms of granting the licence to tap toddy from the palmyra tree, which is less expensive and less dangerous to health.

Dr. Arunachalam,
Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

To read more letters online, scan the QR code. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

The rebooting of the Congress

Valerian Rodrigues

was Professor at Mangalore University and Jawaharlal Nehru University

Prior to the announcement of the Karnataka election dates, there was little reason to believe that the Congress would secure a massive mandate. The pronouncements of the party's leaders on data and victory margins were meant to be inspirational rather than evidence-based. Many commentators on the mandate have focused on the failure of the BJP in highlighting issues, choosing the right candidates and slogans, and countering Opposition charges. Such comments assume that the BJP was destined to win at the hustings. It could well be argued that the mandate is a positive outcome of the redefinition of the Congress, a redefinition which has succeeded in pinning down the BJP and reducing the electoral strength of the JD(S) drastically. The social configuration in Karnataka was amply suited for the Congress's redefinition.

A distinct ideological map

The Congress crafted a distinct ideological map, and an action plan ensued from it. The party expressed its commitment to democracy as a value, which meant fostering equal regard to all irrespective of identity markers. It upheld the ideal of social justice, not merely as a set of preferential measures to vulnerable social groups, but also to undo prevailing partisanship, injustice, exclusion, and discrimination. It argued that both these values have been given a toss under the BJP. It pointed out that deference to citizen rights, including the right to dissent, is foundational to constitutional democracy. It demonstrated that the BJP regime undermined these rights and the institutions meant to protect them. While the Congress's record on federalism is not unsullied, the party became an ardent votary on this issue given that the BJP has fostered centralisation and personalisation of power in recent years.

The Congress spelled out this ideological map with certain 'guarantees' that did not bear any caste or identity markers: monetary support to women-headed households, unemployment doles to educated unemployed, a certain quantity of foodgrains to poor households, certain units of free electricity to every household in the State, and free travel for women in public buses. These schemes were defended on grounds of enablement and inclusion, which are central to social justice, citizen rights, and participatory democracy. They helped the party to reach out to the unemployed, women, the youth, and the poor. These guarantees meant a lot to lower castes, minorities, and backward regions although they were not stamped with identity markers. Certain social clusters such as Dalits, Adivasis, farmers and fisherfolk were also later given specific assurances.

The Congress employed its flagship values to target the BJP on corruption, the communal stand-off, and inequality of citizenship. Attention was drawn to the humiliation of the local leadership, empty rhetoric, the use of media to subvert freedoms, and the deployment of state machinery to curb dissent as well as opposition to the regime. The party denounced crony capitalism, with state power babysitting it, and accused the BJP leadership of unconcern when floods and drought ravaged parts of the State. These charges found a listening ear, particularly in northern Karnataka.

The divide within

While Karnataka finds itself somewhere near the top among the States in gross economic statistics, the economic and social divide within the State is glaring. It gets further complicated by factors such as caste, regional disparities, the rural-urban divide, and religious and linguistic belonging. Intra-religious pluralism in Karnataka is as deep as inter-religious pluralism. There is large-scale and, often, distress seasonal migration of labour from certain parts of northern Karnataka to other parts of the State or other States. Much of this labour is unskilled and mainly drawn from lower castes. Their condition has become precarious with heavy floods and drought; the pandemic exacerbated their situation further. In central and southern Karnataka, while there is a noticeable elite among the lower castes, a vast majority of them live at the social margins. In the rural areas, there is a growing shift to non-agricultural occupations that are low paying. A vast majority of Muslims across the State too live at the social margins. While the big industry in Karnataka, centred around Bengaluru, is slowly spreading across the State, little can be said about its social responsibility.

Karnataka is the most linguistically plural State in south India and connects the cultural and artistic traditions of north India with the south. Social and literary movements have sought to redefine the State's contours. Clearly, certain social classes, regions, castes, and communities – the labouring poor, informal labour, women in the informal sector, Muslims, the lower castes and communities - found themselves in sync with the Congress's agenda and voted for the party overwhelmingly, particularly in northern, central and south Karnataka.

In contrast to the BJP, which called upon the electorate to vote with the Prime Minister in view, the Congress sought to anchor itself on leadership drawn from the region, with the Gandhis and leaders from elsewhere playing a supportive role. Many civil society groups, which were wary of the Hindutva project, played a key role in appealing to their respective social clusters. While the BJP is well-known for its booth management, a strongly motivated technical team pursued this task quietly and efficiently for the Congress.

The social configuration in Karnataka was amply suited for the Congress's redefinition

The Dalit outreach of the BRS

The party is attempting to swing Dalit votes in its favour

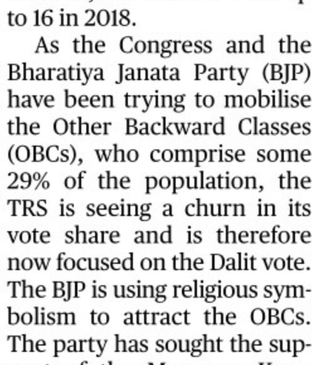
STATE OF PLAY

Serish Nanisetti

Central Hyderabad now has a 125-feet-tall bronze statue of B.R. Ambedkar just yards away from the recently inaugurated Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat. While Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao inaugurated the statue on Ambedkar Jayanti near the Hussain Sagar Lake, an event for which Dalits from all the 119 Assembly constituencies in the State were invited, the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister K.T. Rama Rao unveiled a shorter version of the statue in another part of the city.

By unveiling the statue, which is the tallest of Ambedkars in the country, and by building a new Secretariat in the name of Ambedkar, which is sprawled over 28 acres with the Ashoka Emblem placed at the main dome at a height of 265 feet, the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) has made it clear that it is attempting to swing Dalit votes in its favour as the State is set to go to the polls later this year. These initiatives are part of its outreach to Dalits over the last few years. In 2021, for instance, the Telangana government launched the Dalit Bandhu Scheme, which provides a one-time capital grant of ₹10 lakh to Scheduled Caste (SC) families to start their own businesses or entrepreneurial ventures.

There is a significant SC population in Telangana. The Samagra Kutumba Survey of 2014 had shown that 17.48% of the population of Telangana is SC. In 13 of the 32 districts in the State, the SC population is higher than 20%. In Mancherial district, which has three



Assembly constituencies, the SC population is 26%. The 2011 Census data had pegged the SC population at 15.45%.

A decade ago, Mr. Rao had promised a Dalit Chief Minister if his party came to power. That promise was forgotten after his decisive victory in 2014. While Dr. T. Rajaiah, hailing from the Madiga community, was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister, he was sacked even before the government completed a year. From then until now, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti, which is now called the BRS, has been wooing the Dalits every now and then. The party won 13 of the 19 seats reserved for SCs in the State in the 2014 Assembly election; this number went up to 16 in 2018.

As the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have been trying to mobilise the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), who comprise some 29% of the population, the TRS is seeing a churn in its vote share and is therefore now focused on the Dalit vote. The BJP is using religious symbolism to attract the OBCs. The party has sought the support of the Munnuru Kapu community, which is economically and culturally powerful, and the Mudirajus, given the understanding that other dominant OBCs such as the Gouds and Yadavs are tilting towards the TRS. The Congress, which is rejuvenated after the success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, is also eyeing the OBC votes. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has called for a caste census. It is this fear of a vote shift that has forced the hand of the BRS leadership.

The change in engagement with the SCs may also have to do something with the BRS's wish to expand its footprint in neighbouring Maharashtra. Mr. Rao invited Prakash Ambedkar, the grandson of B.R. Ambedkar, who has a significant following in Maharashtra, for the inauguration.

These pro-Dalit moves are especially a change from a year ago when Mr. Rao came under attack for disrespecting the community. After the Union Budget was presented in 2022, Mr. Rao had stressed the need for drafting a new Constitution. He said the text was unable to meet expectations even after 75 years of Independence and that successive governments in Delhi had whittled down the powers of States instead of bolstering them. These comments evoked sharp reactions from Opposition parties. The Congress alleged that the Chief Minister's views reflected his disrespect towards Ambedkar. Bahujan Samaj Party convener and retired IPS officer R.S. Praveen Kumar said the statement "exposes a deeper conspiracy to erase all the safeguards guaranteed to the minorities and weaker sections." And some Dalit organisations asked Mr. Rao to tender an apology and withdraw his comments.

On the other hand, during the inauguration of the new Secretariat Complex, the Chief Minister said "Ambedkar's message for the development of all sections is a big inspiration to the State government... [His] vision of enshrining Article 3 in the Constitution helped the creation of Telangana."

Apathy of family and high costs hinder maternal healthcare

In 28% of the cases, either the husband or the family deemed antenatal care visits unnecessary for the pregnant woman

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

In May, a United Nations report showed that India was among the 10 countries that together accounted for 60% of global maternal deaths, stillbirths and newborn deaths. India accounted for over 17% of such deaths in 2020, followed by Nigeria (12%) and Pakistan (10%). The report also showed that India had the second-highest number of maternal deaths (24,000) after Nigeria.

The report reiterated the three major interventions that help reduce maternal deaths: going for four antenatal care visits or ANC visits (during pregnancy), having a skilled attendant at birth, and receiving postnatal care (after childbirth) within the first two days after birth (PNC). During antenatal care, health workers educate women about complications during pregnancy and labour, and after childbirth. The visits also help women get access to micronutrient supplementation (iron and folic acid supplements) to prevent anaemia, which can lead to maternal and perinatal mortality. It also helps them seek treatment for hypertension to prevent eclampsia, and to get immunisation against tetanus and other endemic diseases.

Table 1 shows that in India, 6.1% of mothers did not go for even one ANC visit during their recent pregnancy, while 34.1% of them went once, twice or thrice, which is less than the four visits recommended by the WHO. There was also a noticeable urban-rural divide. More importantly, only 39.9% of mothers who had no school education completed four ANC visits compared to the 68.6% of those who completed 12 years of schooling. Such stark differences were observed across class and caste. A much higher share of mothers from wealthier households and a relatively high share of upper castes completed four ANC visits.

Postnatal care within the first two days after birth is recommended because mothers are in their most vulnerable state in the postpartum period (42 days after childbirth). According to the WHO, "most maternal and infant deaths occur in the first month after birth, with almost half of the postnatal maternal deaths occurring within the first 24 hours, and 66% occuring during the first week."

As shown in **Table 2**, 16% of women in India did not have even one postnatal health check-up, while 22.8% of them had a delayed check-up two days after the childbirth. There were stark differences among mothers along education levels and wealth status of the households. In the poorest 20% of the households, 26.3% women never had a postnatal health check-up, whereas among the richest, only 7.9% did not.

More worryingly, only 50-60% of husbands were informed by a health worker at any time during the pregnancy of the specific signs of pregnancy-related complications. And only about 64% of them knew what to do if the woman had a complication **(Table 3)**.

Table 4 shows that very few women refuse antenatal care on their own (only 3.9% of women did so). In most cases, it was the apathy of the husband or her family that led to fewer ANC visits. In 28% of the cases, it was either the husband or the family who deemed ANC visits unnecessary or did not allow the woman to visit the centre. Money is also an important factor with 27.7% citing lack of finance for refusing such visits.

It is also important to point out that 8% of Indian women did not receive tetanus shots which helps prevent infections during and after surgery. Also, in about 11% of cases, no skilled health providers, who could detect and manage complications, were present at the time of delivery.

Maternal health matters

The data are sourced from the **National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21)** and the UN report titled, 'Improving maternal and newborn health and survival and reducing stillbirth: Progress report 2023'

Table 1 | The socio-economic background of pregnant women who completed antenatal care (ANC) visits

Parameters	Frequency	%
Frequency of ANC visits	No ANC visit: **India overall**	6.1
	One ANC visit: **India overall**	6.6
	Two ANC visits: **India overall**	11.8
	Three ANC visits: **India overall**	15.7
	>=four ANC visits: **India overall**	58.5
Location	>=four ANC visits: **Urban**	68.6
	>=four ANC visits: **Rural**	54.5
Years of schooling	>=four ANC visits: **0 years**	39.9
	>=four ANC visits: **>=12 years**	68.6
Caste	>=four ANC visits: **Scheduled caste**	55.3
	>=four ANC visits: **Scheduled tribe**	57.6
	>=four ANC visits: **OBC**	57.2
	>=four ANC visits: **General**	64.4
Wealth quintile	>=four ANC visits: **Poorest 20%**	41.8
	>=four ANC visits: **Richest 20%**	71.8

Table 2 | The table shows the socio-economic background of women who visited hospitals for postnatal care (PNC) after two days of childbirth or never did so (figures in %)

	Background characteristic	>2 days*	No postnatal health check
	Overall	22.8	16
Location	Urban	25.7	11.9
	Rural	21.6	17.6
Years of schooling	0 years	15.5	25.4
	>=12 years	27.9	10.5
Caste	SC	21.7	17
	ST	21.9	16.5
	OBC	23.1	15.2
	General	23.5	16.1
Wealth quintile	Poorest 20%	16.2	26.3
	Richest 20%	29.1	7.9

Table 3 | The table lists the share of men who were informed about complications in pregnancy by health providers

Parameter		%
Share of men who were told by a health provider or worker about specific signs of pregnancy complications such as ...	...bleeding	51.4
	... convulsions	53.5
	... prolonged labour	60.8
	... abdominal pain	64.5
	... High BP	57.2
	Share of men told by a health provider or worker what to do if the pregnant woman had any complications	63.9

*includes those who did not know the number of days

Table 4 | The table lists the reasons behind the lack of antenatal care visits (figures in %)

	Urban	Rural	Total
Man did not think it was necessary/did not allow	20.1	14.2	15.3
Family did not think it was necessary/did not allow	15.3	12.1	12.7
Pregnant woman did not want checkup	3	4.1	3.9
Woman has had children before	7.9	1.7	2.9
Costs too much	19.4	29.6	27.7
Too far/no transportation	0.3	2.7	2.2
No female health worker available	1.1	2.7	2.4
Other	3.4	4.4	4.2
Don't know/missing	29.4	28.5	28.7

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 17, 1973

Defector to lose seat: Bill introduced

New Delhi, May 16: A Constitution Amendment Bill which seeks to disqualify a defector from his continued membership of Parliament or State Legislature was introduced to-day by the Home Minister, Mr. Uma Shankar Dixit, in the Lok Sabha. Any member of Parliament or State Legislature changing his political allegiance, except as a result of a split in his party, will forfeit his membership after this anti-defection law comes into force. The Bill also stipulates that the Prime Minister or Chief Minister should be a member of the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly to ensure that they are directly elected by the people to the lower Houses and not indirectly inducted into the upper Houses. But it does not dispense altogether with the existing provision in the Constitution which entitles one to become a Prime Minister or Chief Minister without being a member of the Lower House of Parliament or State Legislature so long as he seeks election to it within six months from the date of his appointment. An offending member is liable to be disqualified under this Bill not only for defecting from the political party which had set him up as a candidate in an election or which he joined after an election, but also for voting or abstaining from voting in defiance of the whip issued by his party without obtaining his prior permission. But the President or the Governor, as the case may be, cannot entertain any question regarding such a disqualification of a member of Parliament or State Legislature in pursuance of this legislation unless the matter has been referred to him "by the political party or any person or authority authorised by it in this behalf."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 17, 1923

Near east

Leafield (Oxford) May 17: At a meeting of the political committee of the Near East Conference this morning, according to a press telegram, experts announced that agreement had been reached between Turkey and Britain regarding the Gallipoli cemeteries whereby new formalities are also to be imposed on British subjects visiting the graves of British soldiers. It is also stated that agreement has been reached at the conference on practically all economic issues regarding concessions now proceeding at Constantinople and Angora.

From Page One

Shivakumar presses his case; talks inconclusive

Mr. Shivakumar, who arrived in Delhi on Tuesday afternoon, called on Mr. Kharge to present his case later in the evening. Though he did not speak to journalists after this meeting, he had earlier asserted that there was no question of him quitting the party. "My mother is my party. We have built this party. No question," he said, when asked to comment on reports that he may resign from the party if not given the Chief Minister's post.

Soon after the KPCC chief met Mr. Kharge, Mr. Siddaramaiah also called on the Congress chief for a one-on-one meeting.Earlier in the day, former party chief Rahul Gandhi joined in for a meeting at Mr. Kharge's residence where Mr. Venugopal and Mr. Surjewala were present to brainstorm on the leadership tussle.

The Shivakumar camp seemed firm that the KPCC chief should be given the opportunity to head the government as he had revived the party organisation at a time when it was hit by defections and desertions.

However, supporters of Mr. Siddaramaiah argued that he not only enjoyed the support of the majority of the newly elected MLAs but is also responsible for Congress' mass outreach among AHINDAs, an acronym for the rainbow coalition of religious minorities, Other Backward Classes and Dalits.

Another argument being forwarded is that Mr. Shivakumar could be "troubled" by Central agencies to embarrass the Congress ahead of the next general election, as he has been questioned and jailed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case. The KPCC chief's supporters, on the other hand, cite this as an example of harassment by the BJP for Mr. Shivakumar's loyalty to the Congress.

Don't create a climate of fear, SC tells ED

The State alleged that the investigation carried out by the ED was wholly without jurisdiction and illegal in as much as there was no underlying predicate offence. "The illegal investigation conducted by Enforcement Directorate in the present case is contrary to the principle of federalism which is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution," it said.

Chhattisgarh had recently filed an original suit invoking Article 131 of the Constitution challenging the legality of certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The State had alleged that these provisions were prone to misuse by Central agencies who flex them to "intimidate, harass and disturb" the normal functioning of the non-BJP State government.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by two Chhattisgarh-based persons, one of whom has been arrested by the ED in connection with the case, challenging the proceedings initiated by the anti-money laundering agency. The State filed its application seeking impleadment in the petition.

Monsoon to reach Kerala on June 4

The IMD uses a dedicated weather model for forecasting the Kerala-onset and accounts for factors such as the minimum temperatures over northwest India, peak pre-monsoon (March-May) rainfall and winds in the upper reaches of the northeast Indian Ocean.

The monsoon's arrival over Kerala is preceded by specific weather-heavy rains and clouding - over the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands by May 20. However the cyclone Mocha, that formed in the Bay of Bengal and landed in Myanmar, affected the progress of the monsoon system in the A&N islands and is partly responsible for the expected delayed arrival over Kerala, an IMD spokesperson told *The Hindu*. Cyclones tend to suck out moisture and impede rain-bearing systems. The Southwest monsoon was very likely to advance into the south Bay of Bengal, South Andaman Sea and Nicobar Islands within the next three days, officials confirmed.

Row over adopting father's surname

Mr. Chyne alluded to sections 3 and 12 of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Khasi Social Custom of Lineage Act, 1997, which says only those following the custom of using their mother's surname will be identified as a Khasi.

Asserting that the KHADC was committed to the preservation and protection of the age-old tradition of the community, Mr. Chyne also said it is mandatory for any Khasi woman who marries a non-Khasi to obtain the Khasi tribe certificate for applying for the ST certificate for her children.

Men's rights activists among the Khasis have been fighting for switching over from the matrilineal to the patrilineal system since the 1960s. A bid by a group called Iktiar Longbriew Manbriew, meaning right to live, was short-lived but its successor, Syngkhong Rympei Thymmai (home and hearth restructured) has been sustaining the crusade since its birth in 1990.

The Syngkhong Rympei Thymmai has more than 4,000 members today.

9 dead in explosion at 'illegal' firecracker unit in Bengal

Mamata announces ex gratia to families of victims; BJP alleges that blast occurred in a Trinamool leader's factory where bombs were being made, and raises questions on law and order

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Nine workers were killed and several injured in a massive blast at a firecracker unit at Khadikul village in the Egra police station limits in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal on Tuesday.

The building was reduced to rubble. K. Amarnath, Superintendent of Police, Purba Medinipur, said that so far nine bodies had been recovered.

Local people attacked the police who reached the site after the explosion and stopped Trinamool Congress leaders from visiting the spot. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said it was an illegal unit, and announced ex gratia to the families of the victims.

Bhanu Bag, the man operating the illegal unit, has been named as the accused. Ms. Banerjee said he fled to Odisha after the incident. He was arrested last year and a chargesheet had been filed.

Investigation on: Bhanu Bag, the man operating the illegal unit, has been named as the accused. PTI

The police said the unit was raided only a few days ago.

The Chief Minister said the Criminal Investigation Department of the police had started an investigation. She was not against a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as demanded by the Opposition parties. She said senior police officers had been sent to the spot and action would be taken against the officer incharge of the Egra police station.

BJP State president Sukanta Majumdar alleged that the explosion occurred inside "the factory of a Trinamool Congress leader where bombs were being made". Stating that the incident raised serious questions about the law-and-order situation ahead of the panchayat election in West Bengal, he said, "Is Trinamool manufacturing bombs on a large scale to scare the people before the panchayat election?"

The BJP leader wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding a "comprehensive investigation".

The explosion at Egra is not an isolated incident. In December 2022, three persons were killed in an explosion at Bhupatinagar in the same district at a Trinamool Congress leader's house. In December 2021, three persons were killed in an explosion at Nodakhali in South 24 Parganas district. Recovery and explosion of crude bombs have been reported on several occasions in the State.

Two accused in 1990 killing of Mirwaiz Farooq arrested

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The J&K Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested two militants involved in the killing of Mirwaiz Farooq, chief cleric of the Kashmir Valley, in 1990.

"Javaid Bhat and Zahoor Ahmed Bhat, both residents of Srinagar, were arrested by the State Investigation Agency [J&K Police's special wing]. They were hiding in Pakistan and Nepal over these years. Both have been arrested and handed over to the CBI as proclaimed offenders," Special Director-General of Police (CID) R.R. Swain said.

The accused will face a trial in a designated TADA court in Delhi, the police added. The police disclosure comes even as the Awami Action Committee was preparing to commemorate the 34th death anniversary of Farooq.

Farooq, also then chairman of the All Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee, is the father of Hurriyat chief and Valley's present chief cleric, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

Mirwaiz Farooq

He was killed at his residence in Srinagar's Nigeen on May 21, 1990. Mr. Swain said one of the militants had entered the bedroom of senior Farooq and opened fire at him. The high-profile case was being investigated by the CBI after the killing resulted in violent protests. At least 35 mourners were killed in Srinagar's Hawal when security forces opened fire on the funeral procession.

With militants changing tack, Rajouri-Poonch sector an uphill task for security agencies

Peerzada Ashiq
RAJOURI/POONCH

Militants are changing tack in the Pir Panjal valley to outsmart the security agencies and survive longer in a region with a topography "as tough as Afghanistan's mountains", officials say.

The valley spans the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch and 225 km of the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The Poonch-Rajouri sector has witnessed 18 deaths – 10 Army jawans, seven civilians and one militant – so far this year. The casualties of both security forces and civilians are much higher than in the militancy-hit Kashmir Valley, where one Army jawan and one civilian were killed by militants in the same period.

This seems to indicate that militants have shifted their focus to a new region once declared a zero-military zone with waning militant activities from 2007 to 2019.

Obstacle course: Official sources say this region is in need of more police and Army personnel. FILE PHOTO

The questioning of over 225 residents living in and around Batta Durian in Poonch's Mendhar sector after the April 20 attack, which left five truck-borne soldiers dead, has thrown light on the new *modus operandi* of militants.

A senior security official told *The Hindu* that the arrest of Nisar Ahmad, a local from Gursai village in Poonch and his three relatives, has provided "clues on the operations of the hiding militants".

"After infiltration, they [infiltrators] either head towards a sympathiser, whose geo-coordinates are known and fed to their phones, like that of Ahmad, or take shelter in the houses in higher ridges forcibly," the official said.

It is not just the spike in militant activities that is a cause of concern among security agencies, but also the change in strategy, the use of "smarter" sleeper cells, the impenetrable means of communication, and the high level of training that militants are being given to fight and survive in hostile forests.

Militants are using YSMS technology, which is hard todetect. These encrypted messages leave no digital footprint and make it "almost impenetrable".

Another use of technology is offline SIM-less phone activation, where Bluetooth is used for communication and pre-fed locations are followed on the offline application on phones. The attackers of Dangri on January 1, and Butta Durian on April 20, "most possibly used offline applications like 'Alpine' to escape after the attack on the pre-fed routes", senior security officials said.

Hundreds of divided families, with relatives across the LoC, and the growing number of locals migrating to Gulf countries have allowed "a triangular means of communication" and remain a cause of concern for security agencies.

'More troops needed'

With just 3,000 policemen to man the entire Rajouri-Poonch sector, the thinning out of troops is allowing militants to roam freely compared with the past. The Dangri attack has seen the induction of 18 CRPF companies in the region and more are on their way, official sources said.

The People's Anti-Fascist Front in a purported online statement suggested that their activities in Pir Panjal were aimed at "shifting resources back from Ladakh to the Poonch-Rajouri sector".

"We will make you do that and you will hand over a strategic win to us. And then after some time our friends will make you shift back your resources to Ladakh. Your two-front theory is now a self-fulfilling prophecy," it reads.

PM to visit Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia from May 19 to 24, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Tuesday.

Mr. Modi will be in the Japanese city of Hiroshima from May 19 to 21 for the G7 summit.

The MEA said the Prime Minister will speak at G7 sessions with partner countries on subjects such as peace, stability and prosperity of a sustainable planet; and food, fertilizer and energy security.

From Japan, Mr. Modi will then travel to Port Moresby where he will host the third summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation.

On the final leg, Mr. Modi will visit Sydney in Australia from May 22 to 24 to attend the Quad summit.

Espionage case: CBI carries out searches

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at 12 locations in connection with an espionage case alleging that a freelance defence journalist gained illegal access to national security-related information which was shared with foreign intelligence agencies.

The accused was identified as Vivek Raghuvanshi. He was also working with an international defence news website as its India correspondent. "The searches were carried out in Delhi, Noida, Gurugram and Jaipur," a CBI official said, adding that a provision of the Official Secrets Act had also been invoked in the case registered on December 9, 2022.

Mr. Raghuvanshi is accused of being involved in illegal collection of sensitive information, including minute details of projects of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

CBI searches 9 premises linked to RJD MLA, MP in land-for-job case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Tuesday searched nine premises linked to Rashtriya Janata Dal MLA Kiran Devi and Rajya Sabha member Prem Chand Gupta, in connection with the alleged land-for-job scam involving former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad and others, according to an agency official.

"The premises related to Ms. Devi and her husband, Arun Singh, are located in Bihar's Bhojpur and Patna, and those connected to Mr. Gupta are in Delhi, Gurugram and Rewari in Haryana, and Noida in Uttar Pradesh. Their names have come up during the ongoing probe," the official said.

The CBI had registered the FIR based on the findings of a preliminary inquiry into the allegation that between 2004 and 2009, several ineligible candidates were appointed as substitutes to the Railways' Group-D posts in exchange for land parcels. Last October, it filed a chargesheet against Mr. Yadav and 15 others, including his wife Rabri Devi and eldest daughter Misa Bharti.

Last October, the CBI filed a chargesheet against Lalu Prasad and 15 others, including his wife and eldest daughter. FILE PHOTO

Based on the CBI case, the Enforcement Directorate is conducting a money-laundering probe. The agencies allege that about 1.05 lakh sq.ft of land in Patna was acquired by Mr. Yadav's family members; and in most cases, payments were shown in cash. The land parcels directly transferred to them were bought at amounts ranging from ₹3.75 lakh to ₹13 lakh, which was lower than the then-prevailing circle rates.

In its case, the ED had earlier alleged detection of "proceeds of crime" currently worth ₹600 crore. Last month, it had recorded the statement of Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and some others in the same case.

SGPC offers free legal aid to man who killed woman over 'sacrilege'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) on Tuesday offered free legal aid to Nirmaljit Singh Saini, who shot dead a woman found consuming alcohol inside a gurdwara complex in Patiala earlier this week.

The SGPC and the authorities of the Dukhniwaran Sahib Gurdwara, have also honoured the parents of the accused.

In a communique, Harjinder Singh Dhami, president of the SGPC, said that the religious sentiments of devotees were deeply connected with the Gurdwara Sahibs and the violation of rules and sacrilege would not be tolerated.

"When Nirmaljit got to know that the woman was drinking near the holy pond, he couldn't hold back his anger and shot the woman with his licensed revolver out of anger. It was an impulsive action as the act deeply hurt his religious sentiments," Mr. Dhami said, adding that the SGPC stood by him.

APPEAL

I am **Akhila** 24 years old suffering from Muscular Dystrophy which has taken a toll on Eighty percent of my body. To pursue my degree, I am in urgent need of an electric wheel chair to gain mobility. This wheelchair costs around Rs. 90,000/- only. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer/ Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **Women's Welfare Syndicate** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail id is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No. 13 N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324, E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

Akhila

Not violating sanctions on Russian oil, says Centre after EU Minister's charge

Jaishankar says Russian crude, if substantially transformed in a third country, is not treated as Russian any more; Borrell calls for action, saying it is a 'circumvention of sanctions' if Indian diesel and petrol entering Europe are made from Russian oil

Sriram Lakshman
Suhasini Haidar
LONDON/NEW DELHI

Hours before his meeting in Brussels with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, the European Union's (EU) Foreign Minister, Josep Borrell, said that Europe should not permit the entry of refined petroleum products from India that are made from Russian oil.

The government reacted by denying that it was violating sanctions and said it was not possible to fully identify the origins of petroleum products being sold in Europe.

Mr. Jaishankar said the contention was baseless. "Russian crude, if substantially transformed in a third country, is not treated as Russian any more," Mr. Jaishankar said, referring to EU Council Regulation 833/2014.

While Mr. Borrell met Mr. Jaishankar at the trade technology talks, he was not present at the press conference that followed. In his place, EU Executive Vice-President on Competition Margrethe Vestager said there was "no doubt about the legal basis of the sanctions", and that EU and India would have the discussion as "friends... with an extended hand and of course, not a pointed finger".

Josep Borrell

Mr. Borrell's remarks were made to the *Financial Times* in an interview, in which the Minister said it was "certainly a circumvention of sanctions" if Indian diesel and gasoline (petrol) entering Europe were made from Russian oil and that EU member states "have to act".

The newspaper reported that, as per Mr. Borrell, Brussels "was aware that Indian refiners were buying large volumes of Russian crude oil before processing it into fuels for sale in Europe".

Mr. Borrell said it was "normal" that India was buying cheap Russian oil following the G-7 price cap of $60 per barrel, but that it was not acceptable for that oil to be routed to Europe via refined products. He told the *Financial Times* that if India was acting as a "centre" where Russian oil is being refined and products being sold to the EU, then "we [the EU] have to act".

Government sources dismissed the charge that India was circumventing sanctions, saying that the government had no knowledge of such sales. "We are not selling the oil abroad – this is being done by private entities and oil refineries that make commercial decisions. It is also not possible to tell whether these products being sold to Europe are being traded on the high seas, or even coming from India," a source said.

Earlier this month, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry strongly denied a Finland-based think tank's report alleging that India led five countries that acted as "laundromats" to buy Russian oil and sell refined products to European countries.

Collegium recommends A.P. Chief Justice, senior advocate as SC judges

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

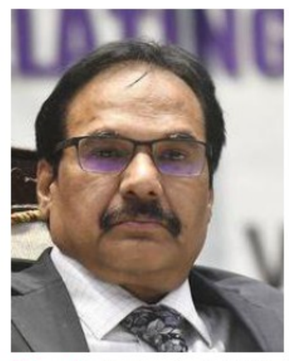
The Supreme Court Collegium on Tuesday recommended that senior advocate K.V. Viswanathan be appointed a judge of the top court, highlighting his vast experience and profound knowledge in law as a "significant value addition" to the court.

The five-member collegium also proposed to the government the appointment of Andhra Pradesh Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra as a Supreme Court judge. The recommendations have been made to fill two vacancies after the retirement of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and M.R. Shah in May.

Mr. Viswanathan would be in line to be the 58th Chief Justice of India in August 2030, succeeding Justice J.B. Pardiwala as top judge, if his name is cleared by the government.

He would also be only the ninth lawyer to be elevated directly to the Supreme Court Bench and the fourth such lawyer to become the CJI.

"On the retirement of Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala on August 11, 2030, Shri Viswanathan would be in line to assume office as the Chief Justice of India till his retirement on May 25, 2031," the collegium resolution stated.



New role: Andhra Pradesh Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and, right, senior advocate K.V. Viswanathan.

From Bar to Bench

The collegium said that its decision to recommend a name from the Bar was taken after considering the fact that there was presently only one such judge, Justice P.S. Narasimha, on the top court Bench. "The appointment of Shri KV Viswanathan will enhance the representation to the Bar in the composition of the Supreme Court. Shri Viswanathan is a distinguished member of the Bar of the Supreme Court," the collegium noted.

Mr. Viswanathan, born on May 26, 1966, completed the five-year integrated law degree from Coimbatore Law College, Bharathiyar University, and enrolled with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in 1988.

He was designated as a senior advocate in 2009 after practising in the Supreme Court for over two decades. He has appeared in a wide range of cases on diverse subjects such as constitutional, criminal, commercial, insolvency and arbitration laws. He has also been the top court's *amicus curiae* in many cases.

The collegium said that it had zeroed in on Justice Mishra after carefully evaluating the merit, integrity and competence of eligible Chief Justices and senior puisne judges of the High Courts, and also accommodating a plurality of considerations.

Justice Mishra's parent High Court is Chhattisgarh. The collegium noted that there is no representation of the State among the current Supreme Court judges.

Found 'worthy'

Justice Mishra is ranked 21 in the all-India High Court judges list. The collegium said that though Allahabad Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker also comes from the Chhattisgarh High Court and is senior to Justice Mishra, it found the latter "worthy" of appointment to the top court. Justice Mishra was appointed a judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court on December 10, 2009, and the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on October 13, 2021.

The two recommendations precede a series of retirements in 2023.

Read our explainer | The workings of the Supreme Court Collegium
bit.ly/3o3yfM9

Leading firms enthusiastic about investing in India, will meet CEOs next week: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said he would meet the CEOs of leading companies in the world next week, and all of them were enthusiastic about investing in India.

Mr. Modi addressed the National Rozgar Mela through videoconference and distributed nearly 71,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in various government departments and organisations.

He said there was an unprecedented positivity for India's industry and investment at the global level.

Recalling his recent meeting with the CEO of Walmart, Mr. Modi spoke about the CEO's confidence in India in exporting goods estimated at around ₹80,000 crore from the country. This was big news for youth employed in the logistics and supply chain sectors.

Mr. Modi said he met the CEO of CISCO whose goal was to export products worth ₹8,000 crore from India. "I also met the CEO of Apple who expressed confidence about the mobile manufacturing industry in India; top executive of the semiconductor company NXP also showed positivity for India's capacity to create a semiconductor ecosystem. Foxconn too has started investments worth thousands of crore," he said.

SC rejects petitions seeking review of EWS quota verdict

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed petitions seeking a review of the November 2022 majority judgment by a Constitution Bench upholding the validity of 10% quota for the 'economically weaker sections' (EWS) of society.

"Having perused the review petitions, there is no error apparent on the face of the record... The review petitions are, therefore, dismissed," a five-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, said in a recent order, published on Tuesday.

The plea for an open court hearing of the review petitions was rejected. The review pleas were decided by circulation among the judges.

A majority of three judges on the Constitution Bench had held that the 10% quota to the "poorest of poor" among forward castes did not pose any danger to the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त- झुंझुनूं
क्रमांक- 250 निविदा संशोधन (1) दिनांक 10.05.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या-02/पीएमजीएसवाई/ 2023-24
विषयः- इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 169 दिनांक 26.04.2023 के द्वारा अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/पीएमजीएसवाई/2023-24 आमंत्रित की गई थी जिनमें निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है
कार्य का नामः- प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना- तृतीय चरण (Batch-II) के अन्तर्गत सड़क चौड़ाईकरण एवं सुदृढीकरण कार्य।

विवरण	पूर्व में अंकित दिनांक	संशोधित दिनांक
ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख	01 मई, 2023 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 11 मई, 2023 को अपराह्न 12.00 बजे	01 मई, 2023 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 17 मई, 2023 को सायं 06.00 बजे
ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने तारीख	11 मई, 2023 को दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक	17 मई, 2023 को सायं 06:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख	11 मई, 2023 को सायं 3.00 बजे कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त- झुंझुनूं	18 मई, 2023 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त- झुंझुनूं

UBN- PWD2324WLOB01189 (RJ20P314)
PWD2324WSOB01190 (RJ20P315)
PWD2324WLOB01191 (RJ20P319)
DIPR No. 6366/2023
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त- झुंझुनूं
DIPR/C/6868/2023

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No.MD/ACCTS/WK-R-3/2023/601
Dated, the 09th May, 2023
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the Work : "Supply of 01 no Pilot Launch on Hire for Three shifts operation per day along with operational crew for a period of five (05) years". Estimated Cost : Rs.8,54,98,433/- excluding fuel cost & GST. With reference to the above e-tender, last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is till 1500 hours on Dt.31/05/2023. Technical Bids shall be opened at 16:30 hours on Dt.01/06/2023. For further details, please log on to the Website :https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .
Dy. Conservator,
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/12/2023-24, Dt.16.05.2023

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)
(Accredited by NAAC) (ISO 9001 ; 2015)
(Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112
Tamil Nadu – India. Phone: 044 – 27472046, 27472104, 27472113, 27472423
MANPOWER ENGAGEMENT NOTIFICATION (TEMPORARY) NO. 21/2023 & 22/2023
For contractual engagement of Consultants
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the following contractual engagement at NIEPMD(D)

Sl. No.	Name of the Position	No.
1.	Medical Officer (Consultant)	01
2.	Hindi Consultant	01
3.	Legal Consultant	01

For all other details, terms and conditions, please log on to the website www.niepmd.tn.nic.in. The aspiring applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria in all respect can submit their application through off line mode.
Sd/- Director

E-mail: sejprur.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in, E-mail: seruraljaipur@gmail.com
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सा.नि.वि., वृत्त-ग्रामीण, जयपुर
पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कैम्पस, जैकब रोड, जयपुर क्लब के सामने, जयपुर फोनः 0141-2223527
क्रमांकः 596-603 दिनांकः 28.04.2023
निविदा सूचना संख्याः 02/2023-24
ग्रामीण वृत, जयपुर अन्तर्गत बजट घोषणा 2023-24 की पालना में विभिन्न सड़कों एवं भवन निर्माण के कार्य हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाताओं द्वारा दिनांक 25.05.2023 तक निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबन्धित अन्य विवरण राज्य की उपापन पोर्टल (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) एवं विभागीय वेबसाईट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं। उपापन की अनुमानित कुल लागत रू. 2177.00 लाख है।
UBN No. PWD2324WSOB01731, PWD2324WSOB01732, PWD2324WSOB01733, PWD2324WSOB01734, PWD2324WSOB01735, PWD2324WSOB01736, PWD2324WSOB01737, PWD2324WSOB01738
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. ग्रामीण वृत्त-जयपुर, फोन नं. 0141-2223527
DIPR/C/6797/2023

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा
क्रमांक : 341 दिनांक : 04.05.2023
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या- 26/2022-23
इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना संख्या-26/2022-23 के पत्रांक 4470 दिनांक 24.03.2023, संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 180 दिनांक 20.04.2023 एवं संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 223 दिनांक 27.04.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 03.04.2023 से 08.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 03.04.2023 से 17.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
2	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 03.04.2023 से 08.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 03.04.2023 से 17.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
3	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 10.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 19.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक
4	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102 - (16)- [02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 08.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102 - (16)- [02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 17.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। UBN No.: PWD2223WLOB19628, PWD2223WLOB19629, PWD2223WLOB19630
(नारायण सिंह मीणा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा
DIPR/C/6604/23

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायती राज संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INVITES APPLICATION FOR CAREER IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
AICTE Approved Post Graduate Diploma in Management - Rural Management (PGDM-RM) 2023-25 Batch-6
Two Years Residential Programme
Eligibility Bachelor's Degree with at least 50% Marks (45% for SC/ST/PWD)
Valid Scores in any of the qualifying exams: CAT/MAT/ XAT /ATMA /CMAT/GMAT
Shortlisted candidates shall be called for Group Discussion and Personal Interviews for final selection.
For more details visit: www.nirdpr.org.in or Email: cpgs.nird@gov.in
i) Last date: 25.06.2023 ii) Commencement of Course : August 2023
Contact Mobile No. 9866107450
Advt. No.16/2023,
File No: CPGS&DE/PGDM (RM)/ADMISSION/2018-1, Comp no.7626
Sd/-
Coordinator (Admissions), CPGS & DE

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited
(भारत सरकार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का संयुक्त उपक्रम)
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)
An ISO 9001:2000 Company, A Mini Ratna & Schedule 'A' PSU
CIN No. L40101HP1988GOI008409
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN A GROWING ORGANISATION
Advt. No. 111/2023 Closing Date: 12.06.2023 (For online application)
SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule– 'A' CPSE under administrative control of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, was incorporated on May 24, 1988 as a joint venture of the Government of India (GOI) and the Government of Himachal Pradesh (GOHP). Beginning with a single project and single State operation, the company has a total portfolio of approximately 47000 MW and commissioned seven projects totalling 2091.5 MW of installed capacity which includes company's largest 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS).
SJVN has laid Horizontal & Vertical Growth and Diversification plans & is developing itself into a fully diversified transnational power company in all types of conventional and non-conventional forms of energy and in Power Transmission. SJVN has a Shared Vision of achieving 5000 MW capacity by 2023, 25000 MW by 2030 and 50000 MW by 2040. The Company invites applications from professionals having experience in O&M of Thermal Power Project for its fully owned subsidiary STPL, executing 1320 MW Buxar Thermal Power Project in Bihar.
QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS & TENTATIVE NUMBER OF POSTS

Discipline	Desig/Level	Tentative no. of posts	Qualification Requirement
Mechanical	Sr. Manager/E6	9	Full time regular degree in Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University/ Institution of India
	Dy Manager/ E4	10	
	Asst Manager/ E3	14	
Electrical	Sr. Manager/E6	3	Full time regular degree in Electrical/ Electrical & Electronics Engineering from a recognized University/Institution of India
	Dy Manager/ E4	4	
	Asst Manager/ E3	5	
C&I	Sr. Manager/E6	1	Full time regular degree in Electrical/ Electrical & Electronics/ Instrumentation & Control/ Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering from a recognized University/Institution of India
	Dy Manager/ E4	1	
	Asst Manager/ E3	2	
Chemical	Dy Manager/ E4	1	Full time regular degree in Chemical Engineering/M.Sc (Chemistry) from a recognized University/Institution of India
	Asst Manager/ E3	1	

Note: i) Numbers of posts shown above are tentative and can be changed at the absolute discretion of management as per requirement.
ii) For more details on Vacancies & Experience /Age requirements and other terms & conditions, please refer to detailed advertisement on SJVN website www.sjvn.nic.in

Important dates		
1	Commencement of Online Registration for submitting applications	22.05. 2023
2	Closing date for submitting applications through website	12.06. 2023
3	Last date for sending application print out along with Payment receipt and certificates	04.07.2023

SHARED VISION: 5000 MW by 2023, 25000 MW by 2030 and 50000 MW by 2040

नीति आयोग
NITI AAYOG
Government of India
ATAL INCUBATION CENTRE CENTRAL COFFEE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AIC-CCRI)
COFFEE BOARD
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NO.1, Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR VEEDHI, BENGALURU–560 001
VACANCY NOTIFICATION
No. AIC-CCRI/2023-24/ Recruitment/222 Date: 15.05.2023
AIC-CCRI, established by Coffee Board with the support of **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission** to nurture innovative Coffee Startups, invites applications from the eligible Indian Citizens for the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), purely on contractual basis. Details of eligibility criteria, application format, terms and conditions etc., can be downloaded from Coffee Board's Website - **www.indiacoffee.org.**
The last date for receipt of filled in application is 31.05.2023 (Wednesday).
Sd/-
CEO & Secretary
Coffee Board

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता (परियोजना) जन स्वा.अभि. विभाग भरतपुर
संशोधन संख्या 02
निविदा सूचना संख्या 1 / 2023-24
अपरिहार्य कारणवश इस कार्यालय की निविदा संख्या 01/ 2023-24 में संशोधन करते हुए निविदा दिनांक 17.5.2023 तक ऑनलाईन सबमिट की जाकर दिनांक 18.5.2023 को खोली जावेगी। पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं SPPP पर उपलब्ध है।
UBN No. – PHE2324WLOB00492
(हरीकृष्ण अग्रवाल) अति. मुख्य अभियन्ता (परि.)
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग भरतपुर
DIPR/C/6859/23

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT,
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JODHPUR
Tel. 0291-2651700 E-mail : rj_cejod-@nic.in
No. CE(P)PHED/Ju/23-24/
Short Term Notice Inviting Bid
(NIB No. 02-11/2023-24) and 16/2023-24
Following Short term Bids for Execution of works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) are invited from interested bidder up to 18.00 hrs. 23/05/2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in

S. No.	NIB No.	Project Name	Estt Cost (Rs in Cr)	NIB Code	UBN
1.	02/ 2023-24	Drinking Water supply project for providing FHTCs in 69 villages of block-Rohat. Distt. Pali (Package-1)	111.83	PHE2324 A0723	PHE2324 WLOB01639
2.	03/ 2023-24	Drinking Water supply project for providing FHTCs in 277 villages of Distt. Jalore through Narmada Canal based FR water supply project.	432.15	PHE2324 A0740	PHE2324 WLOB01664
3.	04/ 2023-24	Drinking Water supply project for providing FHTCs in 36 villages & 3 towns (Sirohi, Pindawara & Bhanwari) through Battisa Dam of District-Sirohi.	127.82	PHE2324 A0738	PHE2324 WLOB01662
4.	05/ 2023-24	Drinking Water supply project for providing FHTCs in 68 villages of tehsil-Sheoganj. Distt. Sirohi through Jawai Dam	136.02	PHE2324 A0736	PHE2324 WLOB01651
5.	06/ 2023-24	Retrofitting of RWSS Jamba-Ghantiyali-Boongri Scheme Distt. Jodhpur	199.04	PHE2324 A0717	PHE2324 WLOB01631
6.	07/ 2023-24	Retrofitting works of RWSS Baori Kallan-Khara- Jaloda Distt. Jodhpur	176.49	PHE2324 A0718	PHE2324 WLOB01632
7.	08/ 2023-24	Retrofitting of RWSS Moriya-Aau-Champasar Scheme Distt. Jodhpur	260.16	PHE2324 A0719	PHE2324 WLOB01633
8.	09/ 2023-24	Piped Water Supply Project Panchla Ghewra Cherai "package A" Distt. Jodhpur	81.88	PHE2324 A0720	PHE2324 WLOB01635
9.	10/ 2023-24	Retrofitting works of RWSS Panchla Ghewra Cherai "package B" Distt. Jodhpur	79.97	PHE2324 A0721	PHE2324 WLOB01636
10.	11/ 2023-24	RWSS Raneri-Sihra-Baroo of Distt. Jodhpur	85.36	PHE2324 A0722	PHE2324 WLOB01634
11.	16/ 2023-24	Drinking Water supply project for providing FHTCs in 99 villages of Distt. Pali from Jawai Dam under Jawai Cluster-I water supply project.	103.93	PHE2324 A0705	PHE2324 WLOB01610

CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT
PHED JODHPUR
DIPR/C/6783/2023

INBRIEF

10 J&K students barred from classes after clash over movie

Ten medical students were rusticated from their hostel rooms for two months and barred from attending classes at the Government Medical College, Jammu, following a scuffle between two groups of students over the movie *The Kerala Story*. Three students were injured in the scuffle on Monday. Meanwhile, the police have filed two FIRs against the students. They said one FIR is against the students involved in the violent incident under Section 147 (punishment for rioting) of the Indian Penal Code. The second FIR has been filed against a former student, under Sections 451 (trespass to commit an offence punishable with imprisonment) and 323.

Arrested DRDO scientist sent to 14-day judicial custody

A special court here on Tuesday remanded Defence Research Development Organisation scientist Pradeep Kurulkar to 14-day judicial custody till May 29. He was recently arrested in a suspected case of honeytrap for providing confidential information to a Pakistani agent. Dr. Kurulkar was arrested by the Maharashtra Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad on May 3, following a complaint filed by a senior officer of the Vigilance and Security Department of the DRDO. According to the ATS, a probe had revealed that he was allegedly in touch with a woman Pakistani operative through "WhatsApp messages, voice and video calls" and had shared sensitive information with her.

Rashtrapati Bhavan to be open for public viewing from June 1

The Rashtrapati Bhavan will be open to the public for six days a week from June 1, an official statement issued on Tuesday said. The tour of the Rashtrapati Bhavan will be available from Tuesday to Sunday (except on gazetted holidays) in seven time slots, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., it said. The Rashtrapati Bhavan, home to the President, was the creation of architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker. This mansion has a total of 340 rooms spread over four floors, 2.5 kilometres of corridors and 190 acres of garden area, according to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The journey through the building is divided into three circuits. Visitors can book their slots online on the official website. PTI

Cash seized during I-T raids on a 'politically active person'

The Income Tax Department, during a recent search on the premises of a business group in West Bengal, seized unaccounted-for cash of ₹1.73 crore and jewellery estimated at ₹1 crore. "The business group is controlled by a person with an active political background. Search was also conducted on his close business associate. The group is engaged in a variety of businesses ranging from production and sale of edible rice bran oil, mustard oil, de-oiled rice bran [DORB], different types of chemicals and real estate, etc.," a press statement said on Tuesday.

India moves closer to getting its first indigenous vaccine against dengue

Drug makers Serum Institute of India and Panacea Biotec respond to call for Phase 3 clinical trials; according to a senior official, the trials, being done to evaluate efficacy, safety and immunogenicity of vaccine, could start close to August

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Moving a step closer to developing India's first vaccine against dengue, drugmakers Serum Institute of India and Panacea Biotec have submitted their responses to the call by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for an Expression of Interest for collaborative Phase 3 clinical trials for indigenous manufacturers.

The Phase 3 trial is being done for evaluation of efficacy, along with safety and immunogenicity of tetravalent dengue vaccine candidate developed by Indian manufacturers. Trials could start close to August for the adult vaccine, a senior health official said.

The ICMR says the dengue viral disease causes significant morbidity and mortality across the globe and in India, 2 to 2.5 lakh cases are reported annually.

The global incidence of dengue has grown dramatically with about half the world's population now at risk. Though an estimated 100-400 million infections occur each year, over 80% are generally mild and asymptomatic. Hence, in 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified dengue to be one among the top 10 global health threats.

As of now, there is no specific treatment for dengue/severe dengue. "Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop effective vaccines against dengue viral disease," the ICMR said.

Giving details about the two potential vaccines, Nivedita Gupta, Head of Virology, ICMR, said that the Serum Institute of India's vaccine initiated one/two studies in paediatric population and the plan for Panacea's vaccine is to conduct Phase 3 randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in 10,335 healthy adults (aged 18-80) in 20 sites (ICMR-funded).

She added that the Phase 3 protocol has been approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (January 2023) and the company is trying to upscale vaccine production with the trials expected to start in August-September.

The ICMR has noted that the desirable characteristics of a dengue vaccine includes acceptable short- and long-term safety profile (no antibody-dependent enhancement), inducing protection against all four serotypes of dengue, reducing risk of severe diseases and deaths, inducing a sustained immune response and effectiveness irrespective of the earlier sero-status and age of the individual.

Mosquito menace: Fumigation being done to control the risk of dengue at a school in Lucknow. FILE PHOTO

Read our story | Tracing the link between dengue outbreaks and the monsoon
bit.ly/thdengue

Leh airport closed as IAF plane stuck on runway

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leh airport was closed for operations on Tuesday after its runway was blocked by a snag-hit C-17 Globemaster aircraft of the Indian Air Force, leading to diversions and cancellations of several flights.

The IAF officials said technical teams were at work on the runway and civil flight operations could resume normally on Wednesday. "The issue with the aircraft is such that it could not be moved from the runway," an official said.

Leh, an important defence airport, is close to the Line of Actual Control with China. Due to the high altitude, civilian flights operate only from morning to afternoon. Several passengers took to Twitter to complain about the non-availability of information.

Manoj Soni

Manoj Soni takes charge as Chairman of UPSC

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Manoj Soni, a former Vice-Chancellor of two universities in Gujarat, was on Tuesday sworn in as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Mr. Soni had already been serving as the Chairman in-charge since April 2022. He had joined the UPSC as a member in June 2017.

He is a monk of the Anoopam mission, a branch of the Swaminarayan movement.

Mr. Soni served as the Vice-Chancellor of M.S. University of Baroda from April 2005 to April 2008.

In 2009, he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Gujarat for two terms till 2015.

Centre rejects U.S. govt. report citing deteriorating religious freedom in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rejecting the U.S. government's latest "Report on International Religious Freedom", which includes a chapter on India, the Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday said it was based on "misinformation. It said statements by officials were "motivated".

However the Ministry also said that India "values" its partnership with the United States and would continue to have "frank exchanges". The report was released on Monday, and comes just a month before U.S. President Joseph Biden will welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a rare state Visit in Washington on June 22.

"We are aware of the release of the U.S. State Department 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi in a statement released on Tuesday. "Regrettably, such reports continue to be based on misinformation and flawed understanding," he added.

The U.S. report on religious freedom had itemised a number of cases of alleged violence against Christians, Muslims and Dalits in India, and criticised Indian anti-conversion laws. It made a reference to Hindus in Kashmir who complained that they were not being allowed to leave the valley by the government despite being targeted by radical Islamist terrorists.

Arindam Bagchi

The report documented a number of alleged hate speech and instigated violence blamed on members of the ruling BJP, naming "BJP state politician Haribhushan Thakur Bachaul, who said that Muslims should be 'set ablaze'; P.C. George, a former legislator in Kerala, who encouraged Hindus and Christians to not eat at restaurants run by Muslims; and former BJP Rajasthan legislator Gyan Dev Ahuja, who encouraged Hindus to kill Muslims suspected of cow slaughter", and others.

The spokesperson also slammed comments by a senior U.S. official that followed the release of the report. The official, who spoke without being named, had said that the U.S. government had called upon New Delhi to condemn religious violence and hold groups that engaged in "dehumanising" rhetoric accountable.

The official also said that the U.S. State Department report had outlined "continued targeted attacks" against "Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindu Dalits, and indigenous communities", "open calls for genocide against Muslims; lynching and other hate-fuelled violence, attacks on houses of worship and home demolitions, and in some cases impunity and even clemency for those who have engaged in attacks on religious minorities".

"Motivated and biased commentary by some U.S. officials only serves to undermine further the credibility of these reports," the MEA spokesperson said.

NHRC flags rise in child abuse content on social media

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Panel issues notices calling for a detailed report within six weeks on steps for prevention

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken *suo motu* cognisance of a media report that cited a 250-300% increase in the circulation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on social media in India. The NHRC said the content is of foreign origin, and Indian investigation agencies have not come across any Indian-made child sexual abuse material so far.

It observed that the material is a "violation of human rights relating to the life, liberty, and dignity of citizens", and stressed the protection of young children "from the danger of their sexual abuse on social media".

The commission said it had been concerned with the ill-effects of online CSAM on human rights as it may cause irreparable psychological damage to children, impacting their growth and development.

Accordingly, it has issued notices to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi; the Directors-General of Police of all States and Union Territories; the Director, National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB); and the Secretary, Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), calling for a detailed report within six weeks on the steps taken to prevent such menace on social media.

Media report on cases

The NHRC statement said, quoting the media report, that "4,50,207 cases related to spread of child sexual abuse material have been reported in the year 2023, so far. Out of these, Delhi Police have taken action in 3,039 cases while 4,47,168 cases are currently being studied".

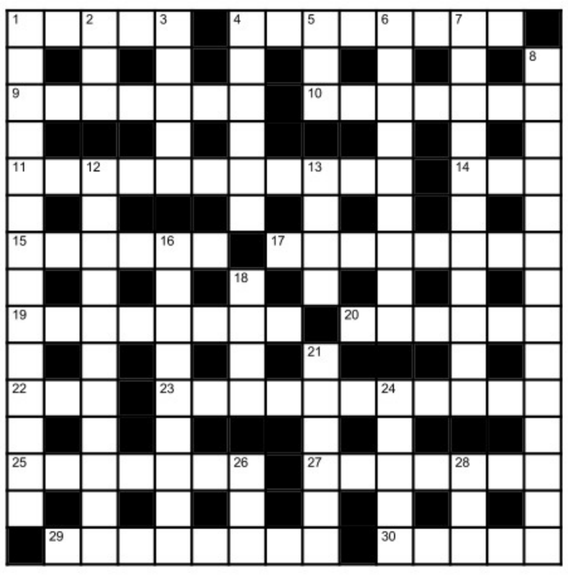
"In some cases, even photographs taken lovingly, of young children by respective fathers, brothers and sisters in India have been classified as child sexual abuse by an American NGO. There were 2,04,056 cases reported in the year 2022, 1,63,633 in the year 2021, and 17,390 in 2020," the statement said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13867

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Serving (drinks) without good reason (5)
4 Lavish display of concern! Nothing explosive! (8)
9 Sweet wad of tobacco infused with dash of scented tar (7)
10 She is engaged in face-off with extremist fringe (7)
11 Close contract with kiss (4,3,4)
14 Design of universal craft (3)
15 Runs new trades in secure jail (6)
17 This suicide attack means a warning, could turn into near-war again in Kashmir (8)
19 Indian Railway carriage wasted water (8)
20 Girl spies shadowing a legendary boxer (6)
22 Slight, slight, slight adjustment (3)
23 One's left trapped in a capital city with oddly built-in natural rock (5-6)
25 Scientist sort of sorted essence of magnetism (7)
27 Some Khan? Um...a notable bhakta of Rama! (8) (7)
29 Very objective entity regularly ignored, leading to avoidable feud (8)
30 Sing extremely youthful, entertaining song (5)

Down

1 Playing it cool in race and in dispute resolution (14)
2 Boost is ultimately a source of energy! (3)
3 India naturally embraced this Royal (5)
4 Snobbish boy, one would avoid at first (2-2-2)
5 Very hard and loud kind of radio (3)
6 African-American man reports extortion (9)
7 Most powerful Indian state, one couple of centuries preceding earliest of historical urban settlement in Americas (5,6)
8 A lot in media on new spreading of a religious sect (14)
12 Togetherness - a dream, I care about! (11)
13 Turnover of processed cheese (4)
16 Controlled and mostly normal kind of expert talks (9)
18 Stage set up quietly (4)
21 Allergic symptom that hampers man's aspiration basically (6)
24 Objector in a bit of bother (5)
26 Party time Elvis (3)
28 Wild nuts (3)

SUDOKU

	7	8		2			1	
6					9			
		9	8			7		2
	3	1						
4	8		6		7		9	1
						5	2	
8		5			3	1		
			4					8
	4			9		2	5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5801 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

M	A	R	R	Y	O	F	F	■	S	Q	U	A	S	H
■	T	■	A	■	N	■	I	■	U	■	N	■	T	■
J	A	C	K	■	A	Z	E	R	B	A	I	J	A	N
■	G	■	E	■	G	■	■	■	J	■	M	■	L	■
P	L	E	D	G	E	■	S	L	O	W	P	O	K	E
■	A	■	■	■	R	■	E	■	I	■	E	■	■	■
E	N	G	L	I	S	H	M	A	N	■	D	E	A	D
■	C	■	I	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	E	■	C	■
B	E	A	N	■	P	A	N	J	A	N	D	R	U	M
■	■	■	G	■	I	■	A	■	N	■	■	■	T	■
O	B	J	E	C	T	O	R	■	G	A	S	B	A	G
■	O	■	R	■	C	■	■	■	E	■	M	■	B	■
I	N	S	I	G	H	T	F	U	L	■	E	G	O	S
■	E	■	N	■	E	■	O	■	I	■	L	■	V	■
U	S	A	G	E	S	■	E	X	C	E	L	L	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	3	1	2	9	8	5	4
8	9	2	3	5	4	1	6	7
1	5	4	7	6	8	3	2	9
9	3	5	4	8	6	2	7	1
2	8	1	9	7	3	5	4	6
4	7	6	2	1	5	9	3	8
3	4	8	6	9	2	7	1	5
6	1	9	5	3	7	4	8	2
5	2	7	8	4	1	6	9	3

FAITH

The Lord of Hastigiri

When Brahma completed Asvamedha yaga in Kanchi, Lord Varadaraja emerged from the sacrificial fire. Desika describes the appearance of the Lord before Brahma, and narrates the events that followed in his 'Mei viratha manmiyam', said T.N. Aravamudachariar, in a discourse. The Lord asked Brahma what he wanted. The purpose of Brahma's yaga was to see the Lord, and that goal had been fulfilled. Brahma further requested that just as the Lord had appeared before him in Krita Yuga, so should He remain in Kanchi, blessing His devotees in all yugas. The Lord granted Brahma's request. Before departing to Satya Loka, Brahma instructed the rishis to worship the Lord, with pure water, fragrant betel leaves and to offer laddus and seedai to Him. Periyazhvar, in a pasuram, talks of offerings to Krishna - laddus, seedai and sesame and jaggery rolled into balls. Desika clearly is influenced by this pasuram, when he says that the same delicacies should be offered to Lord Varadaraja. Desika says that dishes made of vegetables should also be among theofferings to Varadaraja.

Desika says that Lord Varadaraja appeared in Krita Yuga, and stayed on in Kanchi. In Treta Yuga, He was Gajendra Varada, for He saved the elephant Gajendra from a crocodile. In Dvapara Yuga, He blessed Brihaspati. In Kali Yuga, He blesses the serpent Adi Sesha. Thus in every yuga, He demonstrates that He is the One who saves, protects and gives boons to devotees in Hastigiri.

Desika says that he composed 'Mei viratha manmiyam', for the benefit of Vedic scholars and those well versed in the Nalayira Divya Prabandham. In addition, he wants everyone to know of the greatness of the Lord of Hastigiri.

BAKU

Azerbaijan makes arrests over fresh coup plot blamed on Iran

AP

Azerbaijan arrested at least nine of its nationals, suspected of being linked to Iranian secret services and of plotting a coup and assassinations, a statement said on Tuesday. The group was plotting a "violent overthrow of the regime and the assassinations of prominent personalities and senior officials", it said. AFP

RAKHINE

Cyclone Mocha toll rises to 60 in Myanmar; people wait for help

AFP

The death toll in cyclone-hit Myanmar rose to 60 on Tuesday, according to local leaders and junta-backed media, as villagers tried to piece together ruined homes and waited for aid and support. Mocha was the most powerful cyclone to hit the area in over a decade, churning up villages across much of Rakhine state. AFP

PESHAWAR

Fifteen killed as tribals clash over coal mine ownership in Pakistan

FILE PHOTO

Clashes between two Pakistani tribes feuding over the ownership of a coal mine in the country's remote northwest left 15 men dead and several wounded, the police said on Tuesday. The fighting erupted on Monday between the Sunny Khel and Zarghun Khel tribes in Dara Adam Khel along the border with Afghanistan. AP

ISLAMABAD

Imran backers who turned violent to face trial under Pak. Army laws

AFP

Pakistan's civilian and military leaders on Tuesday said that rioters and their backers who attacked state assets and military installations to protest the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan will be tried under Army laws. It has previously said that the May 9 attacks against the military were "pre-planned". REUTERS

Ukraine claims it shot down barrage of Russian missiles

Russian missiles were launched from the air, sea and land in an apparent attempt to overwhelm Ukraine's air defences; Kyiv defends itself using Western weapons, hails it an 'unbelievable success'

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukrainian air defences thwarted an intense Russian air attack on Kyiv early Tuesday, shooting down all 18 missiles aimed at the capital with the help of Western-supplied weapons, officials said.

Loud explosions boomed over Kyiv as the night-time attack combined Russian missiles launched from the air, sea and land in an apparent attempt to overwhelm Ukraine's air defences. No casualties were reported as Western-supplied weapons helped fend off the assault.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov cheered the display of defensive prowess, calling it in a tweet "another unbelievable success."

A metal fragment that landed inside the Kyiv zoo was labeled Lockheed Martin and Boeing, two of the companies involved in the manufacture of the Patriot missile system.

Fire power: A missile exploding over the Kyiv skyline during a strike on Tuesday. REUTERS

New ways

The barrage came as European leaders sought new ways to punish Russia for the war and a Chinese envoy sought traction for Beijing's peace proposal, which so far appears to have made little impression on the warring sides. It also came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky returned home following a whirlwind European tour to greet Ukraine's key wartime allies, which spurred an additional tranche of pledged military aid.

The overnight attack on Kyiv was "exceptional in its density – the maximum number of attacking missiles in the shortest period of time," said Serhii Popko, the head of the Kyiv military administration.

U.K. Ambassador Melinda Simmons tweeted that it was "pretty intense."

It was the eighth time this month that Russian air raids had targeted the capital, a clear escalation after weeks of lull and ahead of a much-anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Six "Kinzhal" aero-ballistic missiles, nine cruise missiles and three land-based S-400 cruise missiles targeted the capital, spokesperson Yurii Ihnat said.

SC chief detained in $2.7 mn graft

Ukraine on Tuesday said law enforcement had detained the head of the country's Supreme Court in a $2.7-million bribery inquiry, as Kyiv pursues anti-graft measures required for closer integration with the European Union. "The head of the Supreme Court has been detained," a prosecutor told reporters in Kyiv. AFP

No agreement in devolution talks with President Ranil, says TNA

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The talks on power devolution between Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Tamil legislators yielded no positive outcome, according to the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the largest grouping of MPs from the island's north and east.

Following his renewed pledge on May Day to address Sri Lanka's long-pending national question, President Wickremesinghe met almost all MPs from the Tamil-majority areas, including from the TNA, on Monday as part of his latest round of discussions. The Tamil National People's Front, which has two MPs, stayed out of the talks that it said were "simply aimed at appeasing the international community".

After his ascent to presidency last year amid a debilitating crisis, Mr. Wickremesinghe vowed to resolve Sri Lanka's national question before February 4, 2023, when the island nation marked 75 years of Independence. After having failed to meet his deadline, the 74-year-old leader has renewed his promise to solve the ethnic problem by the end of the year, even as the Tamil leadership remains sceptical of his outreach. A meeting on issues pertaining to reconciliation was convened by the President last week, where TNA lawmakers pointed to growing attacks on Tamils' religious sites and lands, while strongly opposing the government's proposed legislation to combat terrorism.

R. Sampanthan

Monday's meeting was to focus on power devolution. Veteran Tamil politician and TNA Leader R. Sampanthan, who turned 90 this year, yet again emphasised the need for a political solution based on the Tamils' right to internal self-determination, while highlighting successive governments' failure in addressing it.

Former Chief Minister of the Northern Province C.V. Wigneswaran, now a legislator representing Jaffna in Parliament, proposed, among other things, an interim administrative arrangement at the provincial level, until elections are held. While the President suggested appointing a committee to study the proposal, the TNA squarely rejected the idea, its MPs said.

Self-determination

"From our point of view, we demand a new Constitution based on the right to internal self-determination. Much work has been done on this, there are reports and even a draft. We told him [President] it is pointless to engage in talks on administrative aspects without addressing the basic political question," TNA spokesman and Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran told media after the talks. "If there is any effort to bring a new Constitution, we will participate. But no agreement was reached on our demand for a new Constitution, or for the early conduct of provincial council elections," he added. It is nearly five years since the terms of all nine provincial councils in Sri Lanka ended, and successive governments have postponed holding elections to them. India has repeatedly urged Sri Lankan authorities to hold the delayed polls.

"Many of us agree that the provincial councils don't have adequate powers, but they have a historic context and have been part of our Constitution. Even then, the government is reluctant to hold elections to them. Clearly, the President has set his eyes on a national election," TNA MP Sivagnanam Shritharan told *The Hindu*: "This exercise [talks] is only to show the international community that he is a leader who is willing to engage with the Tamils. That is all."

Salman Rushdie

Salman Rushdie makes rare public address

Associated Press
LONDON

Writer Salman Rushdie has made a public speech, nine months after being stabbed and seriously injured onstage, warning that freedom of expression in the West is under its most severe threat in his lifetime.

Mr. Rushdie delivered a video message to the British Book Awards, where he was awarded the Freedom to Publish award on Monday evening.

He said that "we live in a moment, I think, at which freedom of expression, freedom to publish has not in my lifetime been under such threat in the countries of the West."

Mr. Rushdie, 75, was blinded in one eye and suffered nerve damage to his hand when he was attacked at a literary festival in New York in August. His alleged assailant, Hadi Matar, has pleaded not guilty to charges of assault and attempted murder.

Nepal ex-PM Deuba's kin part of arms deal with Beijing, says MP

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A close relative of former Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is involved in an arms deal with China that is being conducted in violation of due process, a member of the Nepalese Pratinidhi Sabha has alleged. Speaking to *The Hindu* from Kathmandu, Amaresh Kumar Singh, an Independent MP, has alleged that Bhushan Rana, brother-in-law of Mr. Deuba, is involved in the deal for Nepal to purchase items such as Armoured Personnel Careers (APCs), and tactical vehicles worth at least 6 billion Nepal rupees.

"This [the deal] also involved local agent Lokendra Bahadur Karki, who has powerful political connections within the Nepali Congress. There were protests against the arms deal and as a result, the negotiations were paused. The deal has not been cancelled," said Mr. Singh, who has been in the news in recent weeks because of his strong anti-corruption speeches in Parliament.

Mr. Singh alleged that corruption has struck deep roots within the Deuba-led Nepali Congress as well as the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML), which is led by former PM K.P. Sharma Oli. Mr. Singh further alleged that Thailand-based middleman Lokendra Bahadur Karki was involved in inflating the prices of items in the deal by around 30%. Karki is the brother of former Minister for Information and Telecommunication Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, who served during the Premiership of Mr. Deuba.

ONGC Foundation
New Delhi

ONGC Foundation offers the following Scholarship scheme for the academic year 2022-23:

I. **Scholarship Scheme for SC/ST Category Students – 1000 nos.**
II. **Scholarship Scheme for OBC Category Students – 500 nos.**
III. **Scholarship Scheme for General/EWS Category Students – 500 nos.**

Scholarship in each scheme of amount 48,000/- per annum each to meritorious SC/ST, OBC and EWS-General category students pursuing professional courses in Engineering, MBBS and Master's degree courses in MBA, Geology and Geophysics. 50% of scholarships are reserved for girl students.

This scholarship scheme eligible only for the students who have got admission in the academic year 2022-23

Selection of candidates will be made on the basis of aggregate marks obtained in the qualifying examination prescribed for each specified course of study.

The application will be Live for submission on www.ongcscholar.org Portal from 23.05.2023

The last date of receipt of the application is 08.07.2023

For more details and application format, please refer to the ONGC Foundation website **www.ongcscholar.org**

*Note: **(IMPORTANT)** Candidates are advised to use Fast and Stable Wi-Fi connections ONLY while uploading the documents & submitting the application.

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices: Purchase Department: Shanitinagar
Bangalore-560 027.

NO: KST/CO/S&P/SSD/201/2023-24 Date:16.05.2023

e-AUCTION NOTICE

Scrap Vehicles and Materials available at various units of KSRTC will be sold through e-Auction to be conducted by M/s. M.S.T.C. (A Govt. of India undertaking).

The e-Auction schedule is as under:

Scrap Vehicles e-Auction Start from: **23.05.2023.**

Scrap Materials e-Auction Start from: **25.05.2023.**

The interested Bidders may log onto **www.mstcecommerce.com** for further details and registration. They may also contact M/s. M.S.T.C. Ltd., at below mentioned address for needful clarification.

Address: M/s. M.S.T.C Ltd., No. 19/5, 19/6, 3rd floor, Kareem Tower, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560 052. Contact Phone No.: 080-22260054, 22266417, 22287356. Fax No.: 080-22256365. KSRTC Contact Ph No.: +91 7760990221 / 225, 080-22221321 Extn.-298

DIPR/CP/JA/045/2023-24

Sd/-
Controller of Stores & Purchase.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

क्रमांक: 339 दिनांक : 04.05.2023

संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या-23/2022-23

इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना संख्या-23/2022-23 के पत्रांक 4380 दिनांक 17.03.2023 संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 178 दिनांक 20.04.2023 एवं संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 221 दिनांक 27.04.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1.	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 28.03.2023 से 08.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 28.03.2023 से 23.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
2.	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 28.03.2023 से 08.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 28.03.2023 से 23.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
3.	ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 10.05.2023 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक	ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 25.05.2023 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक
4.	बिडसिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01. RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 08.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक अधिशासी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड अकलेरा के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/ तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।	बिडसिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102 (16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 23.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक अधिशासी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड अकलेरा के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/ तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

UBN No.
1. PWD2023WLOB18855

(नारायण सिंह मीणा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

DIPR/C/6602/2023

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY
#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG-17044/32/2022 **Date: 16.05.2023**
C No : 957833

NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER
"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for iron ore mineral block"

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and amendments notified thereunder, the Government of Karnataka is conducting auction of Mining Lease for the following iron ore block.

Sl. No.	Name of the block	District	Mineral	Concession Area (in Ha.)	Estimated Resources (in MMT)	Tender fee
1.	Jaisinghpura North Block	Ballari	Iron ore	298.59	17.66	INR 5,00,000/- + 18% GST

Any person, firm or company who satisfies the eligibility criteria can participate in the auction. Technical and financial bids for the above listed block are invited online. Apart from the online Technical Bids, bidders will have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd **(http://www. mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp).**

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successful registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the block shall be available free of cost at the website of MSTC Limited **(http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ mlcl/index.jsp).** For participating in the bidding process, the registered bidders will have to purchase the block specific tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd as per the fees mentioned in the table for each block.

The GST at the rate of 18% on the purchase of tender document shall be applicable. The GST applicable is to be paid by the prospective bidder itself under **Reverse Charge Mechanism.** The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMG Karnataka /MSTC.

The sale of tender document shall commence from **17th May 2023.** Last date for sale of tender document at the website of MSTC Ltd is **16th June 2023.** Last date for submission of Technical Bids plus the Initial Price Offers at the website of MSTC Ltd is **23rd June 2023** (upto 17:00 hours IST). Physical copies of the Technical Bids must reach the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka by **17:00** hours IST on **23rd June 2023.**

Sd/-
Director

DIPR/CP/053/Zenkar/2023-24

INBRIEF

Reliance BP Mobility unveils 'high-performance' diesel

Reliance BP Mobility Ltd. on Tuesday unveiled additivised diesel in India. The company claimed the fuel would yield an annual savings of ₹1.1 lakh per truck and fuel economy benefit up to 4.3%. "The diesel at Jio-bp outlets will help reduce the risk of unscheduled maintenance caused by dirt build-up and remove existing dirt from critical engine parts," the company said in a press release. The fuel would be offered at all Jio-bp outlets at regular price, the company added.

Experion to invest ₹50 crore in global expansion, hiring

Thiruvananthapuram-based Experion Technologies said it had drawn up plans to invest ₹50 crore in global expansion and to double its head count. The product engineering services company said it plans to invest more than ₹50 crore in the next 12 months to strengthen presence in international operations and build capacity in Japan, Nordic countries, and other existing markets. Experion said it would start operations in Japan by June.

Mobility solutions firm Jupiter Wagons raises ₹125 cr. via QIP

Jupiter Wagons Ltd. (JWL), a provider of mobility solutions via rail, road, and marine transportation, said it had raised ₹125 crore through qualified institutional placement (QIP). "The QIP got an overwhelming response from investors like Tata Mutual Fund, Ananta Capital, ITI Mutual Fund," the company said. Jupiter Wagons also plans to use part of the fund for the acquisition of Stone India, working capital optimisation, and other corporate purposes.

Telecom bill expected to be finalised by July: Vaishnaw

Bill will be focussed on ensuring India's telecom sector is globally benchmarked, lends scope for innovation, has a simple regulatory framework and lays primacy on user protection, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Telecommunication Bill, a draft version of which was released for public comment last September, should ideally take its final form by July, Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters on Tuesday. "We have consulted practically every possible stakeholder," he said.

"The primary focus [of the Bill] is that the telecom sector in India should be globally benchmarked, should be a sunrise sector, should have lot of scope for innovation, a simple regulatory framework and... user protection has to be the prime focus," he added.

Online aid: Communications Minister Vaishnaw unveils 'Sanchar Saathi' portal offering user-support in one place. KAMAL NARANG

Mr. Vaishnaw was announcing the release of the 'Sanchar Saathi' portal, a website that brings together initiatives that the government has already released, such as TAFCOP, a system for users to find out how many SIM cards are registered in their name, and the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR), a system which lets people – who have lost their phone or had it stolen – remotely block the handset for use on Indian telecommunication networks.

MRF to buy renewable power from First Energy

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

MRF Ltd. has entered into a power purchase agreement with First Energy 4 Pvt. Ltd. to boost its source of renewable power.

MRF has decided to acquire an equity stake of up to 19.1% in First Energy 4 Pvt. Ltd. for a cash consideration of ₹13 crore. The transaction is expected to be completed by June.

First Energy is engaged in the development and operation of renewable energy-based power plants in India.

China factory output, consumption reveal frailty of recovery

Reuters
BEIJING

China's April industrial output and retail sales growth undershot forecasts, suggesting the economy lost further momentum at the start of the second quarter and adding pressure on policymakers to shore up a wobbly post-COVID recovery.

Industrial output grew 5.6% in April from a year earlier, accelerating from the 3.9% pace seen in March, official data showed. It missed expectations for a 10.9% increase

in a Reuters poll of analysts although it marked the quickest growth since September 2022.

Retail sales rose 18.4%, up from March's 10.6% and the fastest increase since March 2021. Analysts had forecast growth at 21.0%.

Chemplast Sanmar Q4 net tumbles 94% to ₹8 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd. reported standalone net profit slid 94% to ₹8 crore from the year-earlier period due to falling prices of finished goods and increase in energy costs.

Revenue from operations declined 34% to ₹428 crore, while cost of materials consumed declined to ₹173 crore from ₹195 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

The board had decided not to recommend any dividend for FY23.

Bharti Airtel Q4 net profit climbs 49% to ₹3,006 cr. on higher ARPU

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Tuesday posted a 49% jump in consolidated net profit to ₹3,005.6 crore for the January-March quarter of 2022-23 on the back of new 4G customers and strong growth in average revenue per user (ARPU).

The company had recorded a net profit of ₹2,007.8 crore in the same period a year earlier.

Bharti Airtel's consolidated revenue from operations grew by 14.3% to ₹36,009 crore during the reported quarter from ₹31,500.3 crore in the March 2022 quarter.

"This has been another strong quarter as we end the fiscal year having further strengthened our portfolio. Our focus on acquiring quality customers has resulted in 7.4 million new 4G customers, as we exit the quarter with an industry leading ARPU of ₹193," Bharti Airtel MD Gopal Vittal said in a statement.

The India business grew by about 12.2% during the quarter to ₹25,250 crore and by 19% in the 2022-23 fiscal year to ₹82,487.7 crore. The company exited the fourth quarter and fiscal year with the highest industry average revenue per user (ARPU) of ₹193 compared with ₹178 that it recorded in the March 2022 quarter.

Rival Reliance Jio had reported an ARPU of ₹178.8 for the March quarter.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,932	-0.66
US Dollar	82.25	0.07
Gold	61,120	-0.37
Brent oil	74.96	-0.63

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1889.15	-26.90
Adani Ports	687.00	-7.05
Apollo Hosp	4555.10	-70.75
Asian Paints	3138.10	6.10
Axis Bank	917.80	2.00
Bajaj Auto	4538.35	-26.20
Bajaj Finserv	1428.35	7.00
Bajaj Finance	6784.60	72.30
Bharti Airtel	787.35	-9.70
BPCL	362.30	5.30
Britannia Ind	4606.90	-23.95
Cipla	922.10	-0.70
Coal India	240.95	3.25
Divis Lab	3279.45	2.95
Dr Reddys Lab	4515.05	-3.50
Eicher Motors	3633.20	-25.30
Grasim Ind	1727.15	-6.20
HCL Tech	1090.70	-9.05
HDFC	2722.65	-61.70
HDFC Bank	1647.30	-28.50
HDFC Life	559.50	0.20
Hero MotoCorp	2686.00	-5.90
Hindalco	412.45	1.75
Hind Unilever	2675.90	13.65
ICICI Bank	946.35	0.60
IndusInd Bank	1220.30	0.75
Infosys	1264.30	5.95
ITC	423.95	-3.85
JSW Steel	702.75	-2.80
Kotak Bank	1947.05	-25.95
L&T	2227.20	-19.65
M&M	1262.45	-23.20
Maruti Suzuki	9071.35	-135.95
NestleIndia	21780.40	-6.20
NTPC	177.45	1.50
ONGC	168.00	2.40
PowerGrid Corp	240.60	-2.65
Reliance Ind	2453.80	-35.45
SBI Life	1180.75	-8.70
State Bank	586.30	4.40
Sun Pharma	940.95	-12.05
TataConsumerProduct	786.25	-0.70
Tata Motors	521.15	-9.70
Tata Steel	107.40	-0.30
TCS	3258.15	3.10
Tech Mahindra	1057.20	-7.25
Titan	2790.25	10.70
UltraTech Cement	7698.70	-62.25
UPL	672.85	-3.10
Wipro	386.95	1.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 16

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.01	82.33
Euro	89.32	89.70
British Pound	102.80	103.24
Japanese Yen (100)	60.37	60.60
Chinese Yuan	11.77	11.82
Swiss Franc	91.85	92.21
Singapore Dollar	61.40	61.64
Canadian Dollar	60.93	61.17
Malaysian Ringitt	18.22	18.30
Australian Dollar	54.86	55.12

Source:Indian Bank

Shell aims to enlarge its India lube market share

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Debanjali Sengupta

Shell wants to take its lubricants business in India to the third slot globally in the next five years from 10th position currently.

India, being the third-largest lube consumer in the whole world, was a very important market for Shell globally, said Debanjali Sengupta, Country Head, Shell Lubricants.

"It is possible for us to achieve this target of becoming the third-largest considering India is a growth story for Shell," she told *The Hindu*.

According to Ms. Sengupta, India's lubricants market was a very 'noisy space' with over 100 players. "You won't be heard in a noisy market unless you have a clear differentiation in terms of quality offering at comfortable pricing that fits all customers," she added.

Granules Q4 net rises 8% on higher revenue

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Drugmaker Granules India reported consolidated net profit increased almost 8% for the March quarter to ₹119.60 crore from the year-earlier period.

The net profit came on a 16% increase in total income to ₹1,198.87 crore (₹1,033.93 crore) primarily driven by higher sales in key geographies, including the U.S. and Europe. The company declared a final dividend of ₹1.50 per share (face value of ₹1 each).

Cotton trade eyes more imports from Australia

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

India has exhausted the 51,000-tonnes quota of duty-free Australian cotton imports for 2023 and if the prices are at the right level, there is scope for more imports, according to a section of the cotton trade.

A four-member delegation from Australian Cotton Shippers Association is visiting textile clusters in India to reconnect with cotton stakeholders here.

Cliff White, a member of the delegation, said apart from the 51,000-tonnes quota for 2023, there is a small quantity that is imported by India with duty. "If the Indian cotton crop is small, there is scope for more imports," he noted.

According to Nishanth A. Asher, secretary of the Indian Cotton Federation, Australian cotton fibre's specialty nature offers potential for higher imports if prices are at the right level.

SPB Ltd. wins bid to acquire Servalakshmi

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd. (SPBL) has emerged as the successful bidder for the acquisition of Servalakshmi Paper Ltd. (corporate debtor in liquidation) in an e-auction held in September 2022.

Elgi Sauer plant targets compressors for Navy

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Elgi Sauer Compressors, a joint venture between Elgi Equipments and Germany-based Sauer Compressors Group started in 2008, has expanded its operations in Coimbatore by opening a new manufacturing facility at Kallapalayam.

With an investment of almost ₹40 crore, a 50,000 sq. ft facility was inaugurated to manufacture high-pressure compressors, pressure-reducing stations, and portable breathing air compressors. The plant will serve industrial, commercial shipping, naval and offshore markets in India.

The facility will also house an engineering support centre, which will provide engineering support to the Sauer Compressors Group worldwide for new product development and prototype testing.

"This factory with expanded manufacturing capacity will help us further consolidate the engineering, indigenisation, and product support capabilities of both constituent entities and create a strong aftermarket network," said Satish Kini, Chief Executive Officer of Elgi Sauer Compressors.

Sport

Asiad the first target, but objective is to be consistent away: Fulton

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Craig Fulton.

Craig Fulton comes as the men's chief coach at a critical time for Indian hockey and will have his first test during the upcoming European leg of the Pro League starting in 10 days.

"The priority is to qualify directly for Paris (Olympics) by winning the Asian Games and using Pro League and Asian Champions Trophy to try and set us up as strong as possible for that," he told select media on Tuesday, adding that there were also plans to have more European tours.

In charge for just over two weeks, Fulton already seems to have figured India's biggest hurdle to be more mental than physical. "I think India is a very exciting team, full of talent and flair, and very difficult to play against at home. The challenge is how consistently successful we can be away. Almost all major tournaments in the next two-year cycle are outside India and the objective is to be consistent away from home," he explained.

About the team's strengths and weaknesses, Fulton said, "What I want to focus on is our 'defend to win' attitude so that we can play to our strengths. That means turning over the ball and being able to counter-attack because that's what India is fantastic at, the ability to intercept and move the ball and play aggressively into opposition space.

"We want to harness the DNA of the team which is fast, skilful, connected, strong in set pieces and penalty corner defence, fantastic goalkeepers. What I would like to work on is that when we are under real pressure, everyone is calm and confident and knows what to do and play ourselves out of difficult situations."

Rajesh produces his best quartermile performance

ATHLETICS

Stan Rayan
RANCHI

"He is almost out," said star quartermiler Amoj Jacob as he gave support to a wobbly Rajesh Ramesh after the men's 400m final of the 26th Federation Cup athletics at the Birsa Munda Stadium here on Tuesday.

Rajesh had indeed given it his all, shocking National record-holder Muhammed Anas and Muhammed Ajmal to take the title with a personal best of 45.75s (previous best: 46.09s) and become the Indian leader in the quartermile this year.

"I expected a personal best but I thought it would be 45.90s. This is a big surprise," said the 24-year-old who pulled the second-placed Ajmal to a personal best too. Anas was third.

The day was packed with controversy, suspense and long wait. Priya Mohan, who finished second in the women's 400m behind Aishwarya Mishra, was declared the winner. Aishwarya won the race comfortably in 52.57s but Priya filed a successful protest, claiming that the Maharashtra runner had cut the lane in the race.

There was much controversy after the men's 100m too and the results were out only around 40 minutes after the final. "No one knew what was happening, I think the photo-finish camera was not working," said Amiya, who had to wait long before being declared winner.

Srabani Nanda, who landed in India from her training base in Jamaica just three days ago, made the trip memorable by producing a season-best 11.57s for the women's 100m gold in a season-best time.

One-two: Rajesh Ramesh, right, the men's 400m gold medallist, with silver winner Ajmal. STAN RAYAN

In javelin, Annu Rani experimented with a few things as she picked up a gold with a last-round effort of 59.24m in her season-opener.

Tajinderpal Singh Toor did not sweat much while winning the shot put gold (20.42m). His four legal throws were over 20m.

The results: Men: 100m: Amiya Kumar Mallick (Odi) 10.31s, 2. K. Elakkiyadasan (TN) 10.37, 3. Dondapati Jayaram (Odi) 10.40; **400m:** 1. Rajesh Ramesh (TN) 45.75s, 2. Muhammed Ajmal (Ker) 45.85, 3. Muhammed Anas (46.19); **1,500m:** 1. Jinson Johnson (Ker) 3:44.43s, 2. Abhishek Singh Thakur (MP) 3:45.32, 3. Rahul (Del) 3:45.72; **High jump:** 1. Sarvesh Anil (Mah) 2.22m, 2. Jesse Sandesh (Kar) 2.18, 3. Swadhin Kumar Majhi (Odi) 2.11; **Long jump:** 1. P. David (TN) 7.75m, 2. Muhammed Anees (Ker) 7.73), 3. R. Samuel (TN) 7.59; **Shot put:** 1. Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun) 20.42m, 2. Sahib Singh (Del) 19.23, 3. Karanveer Singh (Pun) 19.05.

Women: 100m: 1. Srabani Nanda (Odi) 11.57s, 2. Archana Suseendran (TN) 11.66, 3. A.T. Daneswari (Kar) 11.69; **400m:** 1. Priya H. Mohan (Kar) 53.40s, 2. Sonia Baishya (WB) 53.42, 3. Florence Barla (Jha) 53.76; **1,500m:** 1. Ankita (Utkd) 4:16.99s, 2. Chanda (Del) 4:17.55, 3. Pooja (Har) 4:20.03; **Triple jump:** 1. Poorva H. Sawant (Mah) 13.27m, 2. Mallala Anusha (AP) 13.11, 3. Karthika Gothandapani (AP) 13.11; **Javelin:** 1. Annu Rani (UP) 59.24m, 2. Uma Choudhary (Raj) 51.15, 3. Shilpa Rani (Har) 50.87; **Shot put:** 1. Abha Khatua (Mah) 16.57m, 2. Manpreet Kaur (Har) 16.57), 3. Paramjot Kaur (Pun) 15.79.

FAIR PLAY

I will always be a bowler's captain, says Titans' Hardik Pandya

Hardik Pandya on Monday said he prefers being a bowler's captain. "Very proud of the boys, two in two (making the playoffs twice in a row). Bowlers are very close to my heart. Sometimes batters take a lot of credit, for me I will always be a bowler's captain and ensure they get due credit they very much deserve."

WALKING THE TALK

Told Abhishek I was going to hit him for a six, reveals Gill

Shubman Gill revealed that hitting Abhishek Sharma for a six was the most pleasing thing for him during the century knock. "I told him that if you bowl to me I'm gonna hit you for a six," said Gill at the post-match presentation on Monday. Gill and Abhishek were part of the 2018 Under-19 World Cup-winning side.

BACK WITH A BANG

This one is for my ailing father, says Super Giant Mohsin

Mohsin Khan, the architect of LSG's thrilling win over MI, dedicated his performance to his father. "It was a tough time as I was injured and playing after a year. My father got discharged from the ICU on Monday. He had been in hospital for the last 10 days and I did it for him. He would have been watching," said Mohsin.

UNIQUE FEAT

Gill first to score hundred in Test, ODIs, T20I, IPL in calendar year

Shubman Gill accomplished a milestone by becoming the only cricketer in the history to score a century in Test, ODIs, T20I and Indian Premier League in a calendar year. In the match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Shubman played a blistering knock of 101 off 58 balls in Ahmedabad on Monday, adding a remarkable record in his career.

Stoinis masterclass sets up LSG's thrilling victory

Kishan and Rohit give MI a rollicking start before the team falters in the middle phase; David's cameo helps the side get closer to the target before Mohsin's excellent final over denies the visitors

IPL-16

S. Dipak Ragav
LUCKNOW

Left-arm seamer Mohsin Khan (3-0-26-1), defending 11 in the last over, nailed his wide yorkers with millimetre precision, conceding just five runs to help Lucknow Super Giants beat Mumbai Indians by five runs at the Ekana Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Chasing 178, Mumbai Indians looked in control when Ishan Kishan (59, 39b, 8x4, 1x6) and skipper Rohit Sharma (37, 25b, 1x4, 3x6) added 90 runs for the opening wicket in less than ten overs.

However, leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi pulled things back with an impressive spell (two for 26) for the home team as he had the openers holing out in the deep.

From there on, none of the Mumbai batters got going, with the likes of Yash Thakur (two for 40) and Mohsin chipping in with wickets to swing the game towards the hosts.

With 30 needed off the last two overs, pacer Naveen-ul-Haq might have undone the hard work when he gave away 19 runs as Tim David lofted him for two sixes. However, the young Mohsin held his nerve in the final over against David and Cameron Green to help LSG cap off its final home game in style.

Throwing caution to the wind: Stoinis cut loose after a circumspect start, hitting sixes at will, and single-handedly boosted Super Giants' total which proved a match-winning one. PTI

Earlier, Marcus Stoinis put on a batting masterclass on a challenging surface, smashing an unbeaten 89 (47b, 4x4, 8x6) to catapult Super Giants to 177 for three.

Electing to field, Mumbai Indians started strongly when Jason Behrendorff had the out-of-form Deepak Hooda and Prerak Mankad off successive deliveries.

At 35 for three, Stoinis joined skipper Krunal Pandya and rescued the home team, adding 82 runs for the third wicket before the latter retired hurt on a well-made 49 (42b, 1x4, 1x6) with cramps. Both batters shunned risky shots and grafted their way out of trouble on a slow pitch.

The Australian all-rounder got a reprieve when he was on 42 when he successfully overturned a leg-before decision off a yorker from Akash Madhwal.

Stoinis shifted gears decisively as he took on Chris Jordan, smashing the English pacer for 24 runs with two sixes down the ground and three boundaries in the 18th over.

He smashed two consecutive sixes off Behrendorff in the 19th over before finishing the innings in style as he lofted Madhwal over long-off. Those six runs proved vital in the end.

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Deepak Hooda c David b Behrendorff 5 *(7b)*, Quinton de Kock c Kishan b Chawla 16 *(15b, 2x6)*, Prerak Mankad c Kishan b Behrendorff 0 *(1b)*, Krunal Pandya retd. hurt 49 *(42b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 89 *(47b, 4x4, 8x6)*, Nicholas Pooran (not out) 8 *(8b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-5, w-5): 10; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 177.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-12 (Hooda, 2.1 overs), 2-12 (Prerak, 2.2), 3-35 (de Kock, 6.1).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Behrendorff 4-0-30-2, Jordan 4-0-50-0, Shokeen 3-0-20-0, Chawla 3-0-26-1, Madhwal 4-0-30-0, Green 2-0-16-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Ishan Kishan c Naveen b Bishnoi 59 *(39b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma c Hooda b Bishnoi 37 *(25b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav b Yash Thakur 7 *(9b)*, Nehal Wadhera c sub (Gowtham) b Mohsin 16 *(20b, 2x4)*, Tim David (not out) 32 *(19b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Vishnu Vinod **(Impact Player in place of Madhwal)** c Pooran b Yash Thakur 2 *(4b)*, Cameron Green (not out) 4 *(6b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-8, nb-2): 15; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 172.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-90 (Rohit, 9.4), 2-103 (Kishan, 11.1), 3-115 (Suryakumar, 14.1), 4-131 (Wadhera, 16.1), 5-145 (Vishnu, 17.4).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING
Krunal 4-0-27-0, Mohsin 3-0-26-1, Naveen 4-0-37-0, Yash Thakur **(Impact Player in place of Prerak)** 4-0-40-2, Swapnil 1-0-11-0, Bishnoi 4-0-26-2.

Toss: MI.
PoM: Stoinis.
Super Giants won by five runs.

Next assignment

LSG: May 20 **vs. KKR**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

MI: May 21 **vs. SRH**
Mumbai, 3.30 p.m.

Points Table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	9	4	0	18	0.835
Chennai Super Kings	13	7	5	1	15	0.381
Lucknow Super Giants	13	7	5	1	15	0.304
Mumbai Indians	13	7	6	0	14	-0.128
Royal Challengers	12	6	6	0	12	0.166
Rajasthan Royals	13	6	7	0	12	0.140
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	0	12	-0.256
Punjab Kings	12	6	6	0	12	-0.268
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	12	4	8	0	8	-0.575
Delhi Capitals (E)	12	4	8	0	8	-0.686

After the LSG-MI match on May 16 — *Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated*

Kings need an improved show from their bowlers

Dhruva Prasad
DHARAMSALA

As the IPL caravan returns to the picturesque Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium here after a 10-year hiatus, Punjab Kings (PBKS) will make a final push for a playoffs spot when it hosts bottom-placed Delhi Capitals (DC) in a must-win game here on Wednesday.

With its campaign coming to a grinding halt following a 31-run defeat to the same opposition four nights ago, DC will hope to play party-spoiler and make amends. Chasing a middling 168, David Warner started off like the clappers in the PowerPlay before DC's middle-order was swept away by the spin duo of Harpreet Brar and Rahul Chahar.

DC's woeful season with the bat has reduced the 'bowlers win you tournaments' adage to an anodyne refrain. While DC is the only team to not have conceded 200 or more in a match this season, the batters have failed to even breach the 190-run mark.

On the flipside, PBKS registered four consecutive totals in excess of 200 but its bowlers let it down in two of those games. Profligacy at the death and the lack of wickets in the PowerPlay have highlighted the travails of Arshdeep Singh, Sam Curran and Kagiso Rabada.

Concern area: Profligacy at the death and the lack of wickets in the PowerPlay have highlighted the travails of Kings' attack. R.V. MOORTHY

Meanwhile, Punjab's batters have adapted to the exigencies of the modern game. Barring skipper Shikhar Dhawan, no PBKS batter averages even 30 but five of them boast a strike rate of 150 (minimum 100 runs).

It will be interesting to see if the Punjab side persists with its thrill-a-minute approach against DC's disciplined bowling as Prabhsimran Singh's coming-of-age century saved it the blushes last time.

The Delhi outfit, with nothing to lose and plenty to learn, could look to promote Axar Patel up the order to counter the spin threat and lend its middle-order some spine.

Today's match

PUNJAB KINGS vs. DELHI CAPITALS

Dharamsala, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 31
PBKS 16 | DC 15

PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by **31 runs**, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

'MSD signing shirt an emotional moment'

Special memory: Gavaskar feels it was 'nice' on Dhoni's part to accept his request for an autograph. ANI

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Sunil Gavaskar revealed that it was an "emotional moment" when he got M.S. Dhoni's autograph on his shirt after Chennai Super Kings' final league round match at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in this edition of the IPL.

"When I got to know about Chennai Super Kings and M.S. Dhoni going for a lap of honour, I decided to create a special memory. That's why I ran towards MSD to take his autograph. It was his last home league game at Chepauk," said Gavaskar.

"So, I went to Mahi and requested him to sign an autograph on the shirt I was wearing. It was nice of him to acknowledge it. It was a very emotional moment for me because this man has made an immense contribution to Indian cricket," said Gavaskar.

Chennai Super Kings is second in the standings now but it is yet to be decided if the Dhoni-led side would be back at Chepauk, which will host Qualifier 1 and Eliminator.

'Fortunate'

"Of course, he will get a chance to play here (Chepauk) if CSK qualifies for the playoffs. But I decided to make that moment special. I was fortunate enough that someone in the camera unit had a marker pen. So, I am thankful to that person as well," said Gavaskar.

Race for the caps

ORANGE CAP

	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
du Plessis (RCB)	12	631	84	154.27	0/7
Gill (GT)	13	576	101	146.19	1/4
Jaiswal (RR)	13	575	124	166.18	1/4

PURPLE CAP

	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W/5W
Shami (GT)	13	23	4/11	7.54	2/0
Rashid Khan (GT)	13	23	4/30	7.96	1/0
Chahal (RR)	13	21	4/17	8.02	3/0

After the LSG-MI match on May 16

Lara defends omission of Umran from playing XI

Shayan Acharya
AHMEDABAD

The Sunrisers Hyderabad team-management has drawn flak for its poor handling of Umran Malik who featured in only seven matches in IPL 2023 and last played against Delhi Capitals on April 29.

Sunrisers head coach Brian Lara defended the decision to leave Umran out of the playing XI, citing his poor form.

"You just have to look at the form of the player. We have great expectations of Umran, and he has got Dale Steyn to work with.

"But we have to play each game to win. We have to put our best XI on the field," said Lara.

The head and tail of the toss

It all begins with the flip of a coin. Calling it right allows a side to maximise the advantage of the conditions on offer.
A rundown of the toss effect in IPL 2023:

Team	Tosses won	Matches won
RR	9	3 (33.33%)
GT	7	5 (71.42%)
CSK	7*	4 (51.14%)
MI	7	4 (51.14%)
RCB	7	3 (42.85%)
DC	7	3 (42.85%)
SRH	7	2 (28.57%)
KKR	4	1 (25.00%)
PBKS	4	1 (25.00%)
LSG	3	1 (33.33%)

**CSK won the toss against LSG but the match was abandoned*

- In 62 games, teams that have won the toss have gone on to win 27 times **(43.54%)**
- Teams chose to bat **5 out of 15 times in day games**
- Teams chose to bat **14 out of 47 times in night matches**
- Teams calling it right have won **5 out of 15 times in day matches**
- Teams winning the toss have **won 22 out of 47 times in night games**
- **On eight occasions**, teams which have opted to bat have gone on to taste victory

Stats till the LSG-MI match on May 16 — COMPILED BY KEERTHANA SHANKAR

India deserve the money, but the ICC needs to work out a better system

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

In the days when there was no money in cricket, England, part of a colonial power, and Australia, a largely white colony, ruled the game. As the two original members of the ICC (International Cricket Council now), they had the power of veto. It was a skewed system.

Still, England saw it as a moral responsibility to take the game to the colonies. Perhaps they needed teams they thought they could beat; perhaps it was a way of inculcating certain values in the locals. Perhaps was to emphasise Englishness through sport.

Whatever it was, and despite the obvious condescension involved, the game spread. India, the West Indies, New Zealand were all playing Test cricket by the 1930s; South Africa played their first Test in 1889, and played a 'World Cup' with the other two ICC members of the time, England and Australia in 1912. That triangular series flopped badly. Perhaps the realisation dawned then that the cozy club was too cozy. There needed to be greater variety, a better range of styles, more diversity.

Money matters

Now, over a century later, history (and geography) has been replaced by money as the basis of the cozy club. England have some, Australia have a bit, and India have lots. In 2014, these three countries decided to hijack the sport by proposing a share of the ICC's financial pie that gave them the biggest portions and left the crumbs for the rest.

India were already the richest and most influential cricketing nation. I wrote in these columns then that the problem with a unipolar world is that the greatest good for the greatest number is replaced by the greatest good for number one. The administration of cricket has always been guided by self-interest.

As Osman Samiuddin wrote in *Wisden India Almanack*, "decision-making (was) about bigger self-interests leaning down heavily on smaller self-interests until an overlap was found – or the right bargain struck."

Surplus-sharing

Self-interest is not such a bad thing if it coincides with universal interest, but it seldom does. Nearly a decade after the Big Three's hijack bid, the ICC has proposed a similar surplus revenue-sharing model. In the cycle, 2024-27, the ICC proposes that of its $600 million annual surplus India take home $231 million or 38.5%. England get the next highest share of $41.33 million (6.89%), followed by Australia ($ 37.53 or 6.25 percent) down to Afghanistan ($16.82 million or 2.8 percent). The proposal will be discussed at the ICC meeting next month.

How did the ICC arrive at these figures? Each full member (there are 12 Test-playing countries) starts level. Then such things as cricket history, performance at ICC events, progress of women's cricket and commercial contribution to the kitty are considered.

There is a vagueness about some of these factors (how do you put a number to cricket history?), and the marking will necessarily be arbitrary. India's commercial value, however, cannot be doubted.

For so long after their debut in 1932 were India in the second tier of international cricket, with few victories, less money and fewer chances of getting to the high table that the table-turning provoked feelings of unbridled nationalism. Through all those decades, India had one strength above all others – its population. We were people then, we are a market now. Television and digital media are willing to pay mind-boggling sums of money to capture this market.

India have reached a situation where they don't need the ICC money. The Big Three apart, most countries are dependent on ICC handouts and cannot afford to displease India whose tours fill their coffers.

Justified demand?

India demanding their pound of flesh as the country that contributes the greatest amount of money to the cricket economy is understandable. Self-interest rules. But shouldn't the ICC look beyond that and towards the growth of the game? Sure, in the short term the ICC cannot do without India. But India cannot do without the ICC either, or they will be reduced to playing a couple of countries over and over again till television loses interest.

India's argument that a lot of the money goes to corrupt national boards that do nothing for cricket is a valid one.

The ICC must put in place systems to check this. It cannot be the ICC's sole policy to keep India happy and let the rest take care of itself. Governing bodies have greater responsibilities than national ones.

There is money in cricket, as ICC's $600 million surplus shows. But not all of it is going towards development of the game.

The countries that need it most are getting the least amount, and that cannot be good for the game.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Kickstart enters semifinals

Kickstart FC entered the semifinals of the Indian Women's League football following a 2-1 win over HOPS FC 2-1 in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

The result: Kickstart FC 2 (Kaviya Pakkirisamy 17, Kioko Elizabeth 90+1) bt HOPS FC 1 (Renu Rani 62).

Manas's ton highlights Just CA's win

Manas top-scored with 124 as Just Cricket Academy thrashed RKCA by 198 runs in the Tiger Cup under-16 cricket tournament.

The scores: Just Cricket Academy 300/5 in 30 overs (Manas 124, C. Barath 83, Harshit Reddy 3/4) bt RKCA 102 in 24.1 overs (Harshit Reddy 28, B. Krithin 4/18, V. Divit 3/19).

Six Cricket Academy 179/6 in 30 overs (D. Anvay 53, Shaurya Manish 35, K.P. Ahan 32, Charvik 3/25, Rajarshi Mitra 3/34) bt Gopalan 167/8 in 30 overs (K.S. Mokhit 64, Atharv Malviya 50, B. Sujith Velan 3/35).

Revive FC thrashes Agaram FC

Appu and Siddharth scored a brace each as Revive FC hammered Agaram FC 7-1 in the BDFA C-division football league.

The results: Revive FC 7 (Appu 7, 10, Siddharth 18, 48, Vinod 24, Ojas 57, Sanjay 59) bt Agaram FC 1 (Goutham 60+2); Freedom FC 5 (Madan Kumar 34, 56, Sanjay 42, Shakti Velu 51, Lokesh 52) bt Hampi Nagara FC 1 (Rajkumar Ekka 60); Gowthama FC 4 (Kishore 30+1, Santosh 38, 60+1, Anto 45) bt Jai Bharath Nagar FC 1 (Hitesh 30+2); Crescent FC 3 (T.K. Ajay 12, V. Yeshas 30, 38) bt United FA, Banaswadi 2 (Moses 10, Abhilash 57).

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m.

Badminton: Sudirman Cup, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m. & 2.30 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

SNAPSHOTS

Onward! Djokovic has reached the last eight in each of his previous 16 appearances in Rome, this time setting up a clash with Rune. AFP

Djokovic cruises into the last eight

ROME: Novak Djokovic eased into the Italian Open quarterfinals on Tuesday after breezing past Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-4. The Serb will next take on Holger Rune.

World No.1 Iga Swiatek took her Rome winning streak to 14 matches with a 6-3, 6-4 success over Donna Vekic.

.

The results: Fourth round: Djokovic bt Norrie 6-3, 6-4; Rune bt Popyrin 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; Ruud bt Djere 6-1, 6-3.

Women: Swiatek bt Vekic 6-3, 6-4.

Injured Jofra Archer ruled out of Ashes

LONDON: Fast bowler Jofra Archer was on Tuesday ruled out of the Ashes with a stress fracture to his right elbow as England announced its Test squad to face Ireland next month.

He will not play again "for the rest of the summer", the England and Wales Cricket Board said in a statement.

Liverpool maintains top-four charge

LEICESTER: Liverpool maintained its pursuit of Champions League football next season and pushed Leicester ever closer to the Championship as Curtis Jones scored twice in a 3-0 win at the King Power on Monday. Liverpool closed to within one point of the top four.

Real Betis defeated Rayo Vallecano 3-1 in the Spanish league to keep alive its hopes of making it to the Champions League next season.

The results: Premier League: Leicester 0 lost to Liverpool 3 (Jones 33, 36, Alexander-Arnold 71).

LaLiga: Real Betis 3 (Sabaly 5, Perez 44, Iglesias 90+6) bt Rayo Vallecano 1 (Comesana 52).

Jyothi and Deotale best among Indian archers

SHANGHAI: Stage-1 gold medallist V. Jyothi Surekha and Ojas Deotale shot well in windy conditions to emerge as the best Indian archers in compound ranking rounds of the Archery World Cup Stage-2 on Tuesday.

Jyothi scored 693 points to take the sixth place among women, whereas Deotale collected 696 to claim the 17th position among men in individual rankings.

The Indian women's team totalled 2069 points to place third, while the men's team gathered 2080 points to be fifth. The mixed was sixth with 1389.

Man City hosts Real Madrid

MANCHESTER: Manchester City hosts Real Madrid in the second leg of their Champions League semifinal on Wednesday with the tie poised at 1-1.